



## **Conservation Commission**

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2014

Approved November 20, 2014

### **Site Visit**

**Present: Stephen Wood, Gary Dickerman, Nick Koloski**

The Commission met at 14 North Street to view the City-owned property along the Sugar River between the Visitor Center and the Sullivan Machinery smoke stack. Three specific sites were viewed as potential areas for renovation as recreation sites: (1) the spillway for the dam; (2) the stretch of land between the pedestrian bridge and the end of the park; and (3) the lands around the smoke stack. There is much potential, but much work to be done as well. It was noted that the buildings around the smoke stack are a safety hazard due to their current condition.

The site visit concluded at 6:20 and the Commission went to City Hall for the remainder of the meeting.

### **Regular Meeting**

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

#### **I. Roll Call**

**Present:** Stephen Wood, Gary Dickerman, Nicholas Koloski, Cortney Nichols

**Absent:** Dianne Harlow

**City Staff:** deForest Bearse, Resource Coordinator

#### **Reports from Conservation Camp Attendees (taken out of order)**

Nathan Rhoades, Zach Benoit, and Joshua Treadway each described their experiences at Barry Conservation Camp this past summer.

#### **II. Review of Minutes of preceding meeting – August 21 , 2014**

**Motion:** to accept the minutes of August 21, 2014 as presented.

**Made by:** Mr. Dickerman      **Second:** Mr. Koloski      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

#### **III. Finance Report**

There has been no activity since the last report. The checking account balance remains at \$16,642.77.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

No public was present.

#### **DOT grant for “Bobby Woodman Trail improvement project” (taken out of order)**

Zach Williams, Business Development Specialist in the Planning & Development Department, stated that the City is applying for a grant under the DOT's Transportation Alternatives Program for improvements to portions of the Bobby Woodman Trail. The proposed project will include:

- Resolving right-of-way encroachment issues at the trailhead parking area;
- Providing an information kiosk at the parking area;
- Resurfacing the trail in the sections between Pleasant Street and Broad Street and between Broad Street and Chestnut Street;
- Culvert reconstruction in the area delineated above;
- Upgrading the trail crossing across Broad Street, including warning signage;
- Constructing a sidewalk along East Street.

**Motion:** To endorse and support the "Bobby Woodman Trail Neighborhood Improvement Project" grant proposal.

**Made by:** Mr. Koloski    **Second:** Ms. Nichols    **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

#### V. Old Business

##### a. Follow –up discussion of Moody Park public tour

All agreed that the tour was a success. Mr. Dickerman stated that the video of the tour will be aired next week. Many thanks to Ms. Nichols for being persistent about doing the tour, and to forester Dennis McKenny for his assistance and expertise. Ms. Nichols said she would send photos and an article about the tour to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions projects portion of the website.

#### VI. New Business

##### a. Discussion of ideas from tour of old mills area

The commission discussed various ways in which the lands along the Sugar River (former sites of Sullivan Manufacturing/Machinery buildings) could be improved for public use. Mr. Koloski will convey the commission's visions to the Parks and Recreation Director, Mark Brislin, (Mr. Wood offered to write a summary of the commission's ideas) and follow up with the City Manager regarding potential safety hazards at the smoke stack area. It was agreed that all parties should look for appropriate grant funds.

##### b. Chair Wood's site visit to Arrowhead

Mr. Wood met with Chuck Allen (Arrowhead Recreation Club) to review Arrowhead's plans to remove some trees and reconfigure their tubing area. Mr. Wood urged Mr. Allen to consult with qualified engineers before removing any trees to prevent possible drainage issues.

#### VII. Communications

- a. Commission vice-chair, Mrs. Harlow, notified the Commission that she will be unable to attend the commission meetings in October, November and December.
- b. DES acknowledged receipt of Norman St. Aubin's "Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification" form and granted approval for timber cutting at 130 Old Newport Road.
- c. DES has notified Allen & Marie Besemer of a possible stream bank violation at 59 Tyler Street.

VIII. **Other**

- a. The commission discussed rescheduling of the Oct-Jan meetings since Mrs. Harlow will be unable to attend. The consensus of the commission was to try and find additional new members rather than attempt to change the meeting schedule.

IX. **Adjournment**

**Motion:** to adjourn the meeting

**Made by:** Mr. Dickerman      **Second:** Ms. Nichols      **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
*deForest Bearse*