

City of Claremont
Conservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2014
City Hall, Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes
Approved 2/20/2014

Call to Order

Chairperson Wood called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.
Mr. Wood made some additions to the agenda.

I. Roll Call

Members present: Chairperson Steve Wood, Vice-Chairperson Diane Harlow, Gary Dickerman, Cortney Nichols, Nick Koloski.

Members Absent : None.

City Staff: deForest Bearse, Minute-taker

II. Review of Minutes

a. November 21, 2013 meeting:

Motion: to approve the minutes of the November 21st meeting as presented.

Made by: Mr. Koloski **Second:** Mrs. Harlow **Vote:** Unanimous

b. September 19, 2013 meeting:

Due to the lack of a quorum at this meeting, the minutes are to be considered “notes” rather than minutes and will not be voted on by the Commission.

III. Finance Report

Chairman Wood stated that the finance report accurately portrayed the current balance in the checking account in the amount of \$18,371.72. The Trustees of Trust Funds amount is \$37,999.10.

IV. Old Business

a. Sweetwater Hydroelectric’s Permit by Notification

The Commission had voted to approve this permit at its August meeting. Unfortunately, the meeting did not have a quorum and the vote, in the opinion of Chairperson Wood, was not legal. He asked that the Commission re-vote on the matter at this meeting at which a quorum of members was present.

Motion: to accept the Permit by Notification.

Made by: Mrs. Harlow **Second:** Mr. Dickerman

Vote: Unanimous

V. New Business

a. Updates on the Forestry Plan

1. Cathole West project is complete
2. Moody Park – this is an active project. The “view cut” is nearly complete. This will restore the historic view of Mt. Ascutney. The timber sale is nearly complete.
3. Wheelabrator Lot – this project is currently under way.
4. Sid Clark Lot (Grissom Lane) – this project is currently under contract.

Members have received a variety of complaints from park visitors regarding the “post-logging” appearance of the logged areas. It is understood that logging, even when done well, can be shocking in the aftermath. However, in time the land will recover and the health of the forest will be improved. The Commissioners urged residents to view the publically-approved forestry plan at the library.

Chairperson Wood stated that he would like to host public tours of the logged areas with the loggers and foresters present to help address people’s concerns.

b. Wetlands on Plains Road

The city has acquired by tax deed (due to the bankruptcy and foreclosure of Customized Structures, Inc.) a 23.6-acre wetland parcel on Plains Road. The city council has decided to keep the land for its potential mitigation value for future projects.

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of adding the parcel to the Natural Resources Inventory. Adding it would cost \$800-\$1200 and would make the Inventory more accurate. However, the consensus of the Commission was that they should walk the site together and discuss this further before making a decision.

VI. Communications

a. NH D.E.S to the City of Claremont – Land Resources Management File #2013-01868, 128 Foisy Hill Road

There appeared to be no call for a response from the Commission on this matter. However, it was noted that there is typographical error in item #16 – 2013 should probably read 2014.

b. Upcoming Workshops sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension

1. Current Use Tax Rules, January 22, 2014, 6:30-8:30 in the Ahearn Building of the Sullivan County Complex
2. Backyard Maple Sugaring, January 29, 2014.

VII. Other Business

a. Barry Conservation 4-H Camp – costs are projected to be the same as last year. This item will be discussed more fully at the February meeting.

b. NHACC Invoice

Dues are \$346. This is not due until April, 2014, so no action was taken at this time.

c. Election of Officers

Motion: to nominate Mr. Wood as Chairperson and Mrs. Harlow as Vice-Chairperson.

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

d. Trail Public Forum

Mrs. Harlow inquired as to the date of the next public forum on this matter. Chairperson Wood stated that he believes that Nate Miller of the Regional Planning Commission plans to meet with the Commission in February with the next public forum to follow. Chairperson Wood stated that he would confirm this.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM.

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Mrs. Harlow **Vote:** Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse