



## City of Rochester Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday April 26, 2023**

Rochester Police Department (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
23 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

(These minutes were approved on May 24, 2023)

### Attendance

Presence	Commission Member	Notes	Members of the Public
Present	Mike Dionne, <i>Chair</i>		
Present	Kevin Sullivan, <i>Vice Chair</i>		Lynn Vaccaro New Hampshire Coastal Abigail Lyon Watershed Conservation Plan Program Trainers
Present	Mark Jennings		
Present	Mike Kirwan		
Present	Merry Lineweber		
Present	Dan Nickerson		
Absent	Dylan Dowe	excused	
Present	Renée McIsaac, <i>Planner I</i>		

### 1) Call to Order:

Mike Dionne called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

### 2) Presentation:

Connect to Protect: Lynn Vaccaro and Abigail Lyon provided an introduction and overview of the Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan. Slides were shown depicting the different layers of data used in constructing the conservation priority areas. Specific areas in Rochester were reviewed to see how they were characterized in the plan. Commission members expressed interest in applying data captured in the plan for future planning activities.

Abigail Lyon asked how the current Land Acquisition Criteria Evaluation (LACE) form is used and what the Commission considers priorities.

Kevin Sullivan identified connectivity to other protected lands and wildlife corridors as being important considerations.

There was some discussion as to what constituted a working farm and how it should be weighted.

Multiple Commission members stated that public access was an important consideration.

There was agreement that some of the existing criteria could use further definition so there was less subjectivity in interpretation. There was also agreement that the LACE form was useful in communicating the level of importance for potential conservation actions.

The Commission agreed to further explore refinement of the LACE form in a subcommittee with the assistance of Lynn and Abigail. The following members were assigned to the subcommittee: Kevin Sullivan, Dan Nickerson and Dylan Dowe. Renée McIsaac will coordinate scheduling the subcommittee meeting.

### 3) Approval of Minutes:

Mark Jennings made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the March 22, 2023 meeting. Dan Nickerson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

### 4) Conservation Overlay District: none

**5) NH DES Applications:**

Old Milton Road; Tax Map 215 Lot 26; NHDES File Number 2023-00714  
There were no concerns with the above application.

**6) Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber / Intent to Excavate:**

**a. Intent to Cut: Tax Map 207 Lot 1; 23-389-02-E**

Renée McIsaac explained that the planned excavation did not have an associated Alteration of Terrain (AOT) permit. After some research and consultation, it was determined that given the scope of the project that it would need an AOT permit. This determination was communicated to a representative of the planned excavation. Renée will follow up as necessary.

**b. Intent to Cut: Tax Map 268 Lot 5; 23-389-01-E**

There were no concerns with the above application.

**7) New Business:**

**a. Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership (GBRPP) Land Protection Transaction Grants**  
The criteria for this grant program were briefly discussed.

**b. NH Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund Pre-proposal**

There was a brief discussion of the difficulties associated with seeking funding through this program. Commission members did not have any suggestions for projects that might meet program requirements.

**c. Groundwater Contamination Notification: 130 South Main Street Map 125 Lot 124**

Mark Jennings was familiar with the reported contaminant and requested that we seek additional information related to the incident. Renée McIsaac will reach out to NHDES and report back to the Commission.

**8) Reports:**

**a. Technical Review**

Mark Jennings gave a brief overview of the recent TRG projects. He expressed some concern with the amount of ponding at the Sig Sauer site.

Renée McIsaac indicated that the project design is still in the process of being updated. She stated that the project would be before the TRG again.

**b. Planning Board Review**

Renée McIsaac reported that there were no concerns to report from recent meetings.

**9) Old Business:**

**a. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways - Proposal to conserve Berry's River watershed land.**

Renée McIsaac reported that the DPW had funds available for this project and have indicated their support in funding the request.

**b. Stonewall Surveying – Potential conservation opportunity, Tax Map 226 Lot 4**

Renée McIsaac indicated that an interest in further exploration of potential actions was communicated to a representative of the parcel. She plans to follow-up with them shortly.

**c. Master Plan Natural Resources Chapter Survey**

Renée McIsaac stated that the survey was still open and encouraged anyone who has not taken it to do so.

d. Easement Monitoring

Monitoring of the Route 11 easement was scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. Those interested in participating should meet at the powerline side of the Market Basket parking lot.

Renée McIsaac mentioned that there is a parcel at 22 Phillips Lane, (to the northeast of the 202 off ramp leading to Milton Rd) that might be interesting to walk at a future date. It is a 17-acre forested wetland parcel owned by the City.

e. Conservation Subdivision Ordinance

Renée McIsaac stated that the ordinance is slated to be updated and the Commission would have any opportunity to provide feedback.

f. 89 Milton Road Status Update

Renée McIsaac reported that the owner of the subject parcel expressed interest in restoring the wetland and the wetland buffer. They have contracted a Certified Wetland Scientist to prepare a restoration plan.

g. Mark Jennings requested an update on the status of the reported wetlands violation at 55 Gear Road - Map 258 Lot 55. Renée McIsaac stated she would see if there was an update to the case and report back.

**10) Non-Public Session:**

Mike Dionne made a motion to enter a Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(d)\* at 8:17pm. Kevin Sullivan seconded the motion; the motion passed by roll call vote.

*\*RSA Note: "Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community."*

Mike Dionne made a motion to leave the Non-Public Session at 8:36pm. Mike Kirwan seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Mike Dionne made a motion to seal the Non-Public Session minutes. Mike Kirwan seconded the motion; the motion passed by roll call vote.

**11) Adjournment.**

A motion was made by Mike Dionne and seconded by Mike Kirwan to adjourn at 8:37pm; the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Renée A. McIsaac  
Planner I