

Rochester Conservation Commission

Minutes of May 24, 2017

Approved June 28, 2017

Members Present:

Mike Dionne	Merry Lineweber	Barbara Soley	Jack Hackett
Mark Jennings	Michael Kirwan	Sheila Lulek	

Members Absent: Kevin Sullivan Keith Johnson

Staff: Seth Creighton, Chief Planner

Mr. Dionne convened the meeting at 6:32pm and appointed alternate member Ms. Lulek to vote in place of Mr. Sullivan.

1) Minutes: Review meeting minutes of April 23rd and 26th, 2017. Mr. Jennings suggested minor changes be made to the April 26, 2017 public minutes. Ms. Lineweber motioned to accept the April 26th minutes with the suggested changes, Mr. Jennings seconded, and the motion passed. Ms. Soley motioned to accept the April 23rd minutes, Ms. Lineweber seconded, and the motion passed.

2) Dredge and Fill Application/Wetland Permit Application:

a) Ela Court and Congress Street: The City of Rochester Department of Public Works' City Engineer Michael Bezanson and consulting engineer Chris Berg presented proposed wetland impacts related to proposed storm water improvements in the Congress Street and Ela Court area. They explained that this neighborhood's road drainage will be captured through a series of catch basins and subsurface drain pipes before entering a vortech unit and outletting at the end of Congress St. The proposed new outlet location will outlet into a wetland before entering into the Cochembo River. The existing drainage outlets off of Ela Ct into the Cochembo River.

The Commission asked several questions about storm water treatment and outlet stabilization. Mr. Jennings asked if this will meet MS4 requirements; Mr. Berg said it will. Ms. Lulek said she lives in this neighborhood and has seen how eroded the existing outlet is and that it is encouraging to see this outlet slated to be restored. Mr. Kirwan suggested that the proposed curbing and pavement widths may create parking problems. Mr. Berg said the curbing is necessary for drainage, and Mr. Bezanson said that parking habits will change but that they haven't seen many problems in other neighborhoods that have been reconstructed in a similar fashion.

Mr. Creighton asked how deep the sumps are in the proposed catch-basins and if there are oil/water separators; Mr. Berg said the catchbasins have 2-foot sumps and that the vortech unit at the end of the drainage run will function to separate oil and water.

Mr. Bezanson noted that DPW is aware that the Riverwalk Committee is interested in developing the 'intervale' area between this outlet and the River. He said that this proposed drainage should not hamper any of the Riverwalk plans.

Mr. Jennings motioned to support the NH DES Wetland Application as presented, Mr. Kirwan seconded, all voted in favor.

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3) Discussion:

- a) Members presented price quotes they had obtained for a stone/plaque memorial that could be placed in memory of recently deceased Conservation Commission member Deg Shigo. Mr. Creighton stated he had learned that the City's policy was to memorialize board/commission members by planting a tree, but that engraving or etching a memorial was not typically supported by City Council. The Commission decided to continue thinking about what is most appropriate.
- b) Mr. Hackett alerted the group to an area of potential non-permitted wetland/buffer impacts on a Route 202 property. Mr. Creighton suggested that the Commission ask the Code Enforcement Officer to investigate these.
- c) Mr. Jennings shared what he had learned from a "Shoreland Workshop" that he recently attended.
- d) Mr. Dionne, who is also a NH Fish and Game employee, recently held a day long field trip with Mr. Darren Scopel's (Rochester High School) environmental class. He, Mr. Scopel, and the students conducted water quality testing in Willow Brook behind Care Pharmacy, and also in the brook behind NH National Guard on Brock St. The group also partook in electro-shocking; Mr. Dionne explained this shocking allowed the group to gather the fish so they could be counted; he also noted that the fish were not injured.
- e) Ms. Lineweber suggested a joint meeting with the Riverwalk Committee. She said that several years ago the Commission was involved with the Riverwalk, and now that the Riverwalk Committee has reestablished the two groups should work jointly toward shared goals.
- f) At the request of NH DES the Commission chose a date to hold a preconstruction meeting with the project manager of Brock St National Guard to discuss the proposed work that will be occurring soon.
- g) The members reviewed and updated their contact information.

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

- a) Notice of Intent to Excavate- Salmon Falls Rd, Milton Rd, Kodiak Ct road rights-of-ways
- b) Notice of Intent to Cut - Tax Map # 206-7, Channings Ln

The Commission had no concerns with these applications.

5) Reports:

- a) Technical Review Group (TRG)report: Mr. Jennings, the Commission's liaison to TRG, introduced a preliminary proposal that would place a Dairy Queen next to Poulin Auto on North Main St. This site is the old City dump and as such has numerous environmental concerns. Mr. Jennings said the TRG group has deemed the application incomplete at this time.

6) Other Business: The Commission discussed the need to find volunteers to do easement monitoring and water quality monitoring, and also would like to be involved with creating a forest management plan.

- 7) Adjournment:** Mr. Kirwan motioned to adjourn at 8:44 pm; Mr. Hackett seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Seth Creighton, Chief Planner