

City of Rochester Conservation Commission

September 26, 2018

City Council Chambers

31 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH 03867

APPROVED 11/28/2018

Members Present: Meredith Lineweber Michael Kirwan Kevin Sullivan Barbara Soley Mike Dionne

Members Absent: Mark Jennings Sheila Lulek

Staff: Seth Creighton, *Chief Planner*

Mr. Dionne convened the meeting at 6:36 pm

1. Conservation Overlay District: None.

2. Minutes: Review Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2018.

The minutes of August 22, 2018 were reviewed. The Commission members discussed and suggested changes. A motion to approve the minutes with changes was made by Mr. Dionne, seconded by Ms. Lineweber all voted in favor.

3. Discussion:

a) NHDES Local Advisory Committee:

Tracie Sales from NHDES Rivers & Lakes Programs Manager talked about the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program the river-specific Local Rivers Management Advisory Committees (LACs). She said the purpose of the LACs is to let local residents speak about their local resources, review permits, and allow for collaboration. The Cocheco Rivers LAC currently needs members. This is a regional group because it is for the entire river from New Durham to Dover. Jay Aube, chair of the Cocheco River LAC said the group meets the third Monday of the month at Strafford Regional Planning Commission at 5:30pm.

Ms. Sales explained the area of jurisdiction all lands within ¼ mile of the River and the associated 100-year flood plain. Mr. Aube and Ms. Sales said the LAC group would review projects proposed within the area. They also said that a long-term goal is the development of a river management plan.

b) Ward 1 meeting

Ms. Lineweber informed the Commission that during the last Ward 1 meeting she attended, residents from Tara Estates vocalized concerns regarding gunfire from the abutting property, the Gauthier Farm. She said that many of the concerned vocalized their frustration that City money was used to help put the Gauthier Farm into a conservation easement. Ms. Lineweber said she reminded the group that money was spent for land conservation and that the shooting had been reviewed by the Police and Zoning and found to be legal. Mr. Creighton reminded the Commission that the environmental review of the Gauthier property concluded there was no pollution resulting from years of target practice/shooting. Mr. Creighton encourage the members to educate the public about what the City funds were used for, and to remind all that the disgruntlement about the gunfire on Gauthier Farm is a civil matter.

c) Other

Mr. Creighton informed the Commission of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions upcoming annual meeting scheduled for November 3, 2018; he asked that anyone interested in attending let him know within the next two weeks. He also informed the group about Moose Mountain Regional Greenway's free Conservation Commission Mixer scheduled in Milton, NH on September 27.

4. NH DES Wetland Impact Application: None.

5. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber / Intent to Excavate:

a) Notice of Intent to Cut: Allen Street, Tax Map 117 Lot 2-8

The Commission had no concern with this.

b) Notice of Intent to Cut: 828 Portland Street, Tax Map 108 Lot 53

The Commission asked Mr. Creighton if there were any development proposals submitted for this parcel; Mr. Creighton said there were none.

c) Notice of Intent to Excavate: 106 Brock Street, Tax Map 129 Lot 15

The Commission asked Mr. Creighton to investigate this further because this property was excavated and timbered within the last year and it is unclear if this Notice is for an expansion.

6. New Business:

a) Mr. Creighton asked the Commission members to inform him before inviting applicants to meetings; he said that this is necessary because there are submittal deadlines and agenda posting requirements that must be adhered to.

b) Ms. Lineweber informed the Commission that Monarch School received permits to create horticulture areas at their new school on Monarch Way.

7. Old Business:

a) Community garden discussion: Mr. Kirwan told the members he has been in contact with the Chamberlain St School and is working with them to reinvigorate the Franklin St community gardens (located on the school's property).

b) Other: Mr. Kirwan said he acquired a granite bench and is willing to donate it in memory of a Conservation Commission member who passed away. The Commission talked about where it could be located, several public property locations were suggested. Mr. Creighton encouraged the member to agree upon a location or two, and once they had, he could approach the City Manager for permission.

8. Reports:

a) Technical Review Group: Mr. Creighton provided a summary of recent, not yet approved, Planning Board applications.

b) Planning Board: Mr. Creighton provided a summary of recently approved Planning Board applications.

9. Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(d): Discussion of acquisition of real property and/or recent site walks and LACE sheets.

At 8:00 p.m., Mr. Kirwan motioned to move into a nonpublic session, Mr. Dionne seconded, the motion passed.

At 8:13 p.m., the regular meeting reconvened.

10. Adjournment: Mr. Kirwan motioned to adjourn at 8:13 pm; Mr. Dionne seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Creighton, Chief Planner