



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

City of Rochester

Wednesday January 26, 2022

City Hall Council Chambers

31 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

(These minutes were approved on, 2021)

Members Present

Mike Dionne, *Chair*

Kevin Sullivan, *Vice Chair*

Barbara Soley

Meredeth Lineweber

Dan Nickerson

Members Absent

Mark Jennings

Mike Kirwan

Sheila Lulek

Staff: Ryan O'Connor, *Planner I*

I. Call to Order. Mr. Dionne called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from November 17, 2021 were reviewed.

A motion was made by Mr. Nickerson and seconded by Mrs. Soley to approve the November 17, 2021 minutes with the changes discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Discussion

The proposed 2022 Conservation Commission budget was reviewed. The proposal included membership funding for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, stormwater management informational signage and mailings, river assessment programming and miscellaneous training and supplies. The proposed budget totaled \$3,000.

A unanimous consensus was reached to present the proposed budget to council as written.

IV. NH DES Wetland / Shoreland Applications:

The Commission discussed State wetland, alteration of terrain and shoreland permits issued in the last three months within the City of Rochester.

No concerns were found with presented State permits.

V. Student Presentation

A Presentation was given by Lucia Wondal regarding a current project concerning Willow Brook. A Chloride Study will be conducted spring 2022 in two monitoring locations. The chloride assessment will focus on road salt treatments and the effect they have on vertebrates and micro-invertebrates.

The Commission and City will assist Mrs. Wondal with her project, offering information and assistance as needed. The project will help the City consider the health of our waterways with future road salt treatments.

VI. Conservation Overlay District:

a. Review Application for Conditional Use Permit. Groen Construction; 29 Wadleigh Road, Map 137 Lot 35-1

Brad Jones from Jones and Beach Engineering presented an application for a Conditional Use Permit and overview of a planned 52-unit apartment building on 29 Wadleigh Road. Mr. Jones discussed the planned disturbance and impacts within the wetland and conservation buffer associated with the project. The total wetland impact will be 4,000 sqft with an approximate 24,000 sqft of disturbance within the buffer. These impacts are necessary for the construction and access to the proposed apartment building. Mr. Jones submitted a functions and values report along with other environmental assessments to help mitigate impacts and allow the Commission to make an informed decision.

Mr. Dionne discussed the maintenance plan for the property and the critical habitat surrounding the site, including Axe Handle Brook and the associated wetlands. Mr. Jones responded explaining the planned erosion controls measures and how the placement of the building and infrastructure has been situated to have the least amount of impact possible. Mr. Sullivan discussed the invasive species plan, third party engineering, and natural resource review of the site. It was determined that the conditions presented by the third-party review and staff recommendations met the requirements for conditional use within the wetland buffer.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mrs. Soley to approve the Conditional Use Permit with plan modifications and note changes associated with the third-party engineering and natural resource reviews. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. New Business

- a. Mr. Sullivan discussed the need to have an accurate list or map of culverts within the City that could be possible candidates for replacement. These projects allow for culvert design which increases water, nutrient and wildlife transport. State funded grants are excellent resources for these replacement projects and creating an accurate list and map will help the City be prepared for funding as it comes available. Mr. Dionne followed-up with the importance of mapping conservation land and creating an updated record of city owned properties. These resources help represent where to focus conservation efforts.
- b. Mr. Dionne asked about the status of the Champlin Falls Trail Parking lot. The lot has had issues with trash and being used for illicit activities. Mr. O'Connor informed the Commission that he has been in contact with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests, and a plan is being developed to present to the Commission for possible design changes.

VIII. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber / Intent to Excavate: None

IX. Reports

a. Technical Review Group

- i. Mr. O'Connor discussed planned developments, including 19 Old Gonic and Easter Seals, both large housing developments with alteration of permits approved by the State.

b. Planning Board: None

X. Old Business

- a. Mrs. Lineweber discussed honoring past Conservation Commission members with a scholarship fund for local students. The Commission was in favor of exploring options for this type of effort. Mrs. Lineweber will work to develop a plan for fundraising and organization of the effort.

XI. Non-Public Session: None

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Dionne and seconded by Mr. Sullivan to adjourn at 8:10pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan O'Connor,
Planner I