

City of Rochester Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes Wednesday July 26, 2023

Rochester Police Department (2nd Floor) 23 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH (These minutes were approved on August 23, 2023)

Attendance

Members of the Public

PresenceCommission MemberAbsentMike Dionne, ChairPresentKevin Sullivan, Vice ChairPresentMark JenningsPresentMerry LineweberPresentDan NickersonPresentDylan Dowe

Notes excused

Present Renée McIsaac, Planner I

1) Call to Order:

Kevin Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:45pm.

2) Approval of Minutes:

Review Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2023.

Mark Jennings noted a minor typographical error on page 2. Dan Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction. Dylan Dowe seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

3) New Business:

a. Excavation Site Review

Renée McIsaac updated the Commission on the Alteration of Terrain permit status of the existing excavation site on Farmington Road (Map 207 Lot 1). The Commission discussed pursuing further clarity on the conditions of the existing permit, and determining what current environmental controls are being used on the site.

Kevin Sullivan noted that based on the information provided on recent Intents to Excavate the site should be reaching the limit of available material in the next couple of years.

Renée will reach out to the site owner for permit records and inquire about a site reclamation plan. She will also ask DPW for assistance in ensuring that best management practices are being employed.

b. Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative (SFWC) Success Safari

The SFWC is drafting an agenda for their Success Safari and have decided to visit sites in Rochester. The following Commission members expressed interest and availability for participation in the event: Kevin Sullivan (if schedule allows), Mark Jennings and Dan Nickerson.

 <u>Moose Plate Grant Funds Available</u> Renée McIsaac stated that the grant round was open, and the deadline is September 15, 2023 for applications. Commission members suggested applying for funding to improve access or trails to existing conservation sites, such as Champlin Forest or the Gauthier Farm. Commission members agreed they would continue to consider potential projects over the next couple of weeks.

d. 17 Sterling Drive Plan Modification

Renée McIsaac stated that the site plan still needed to go before the Planning Board and that the Commission could provide testimony at the public hearing opposing the installation of the solar trackers within the wetland buffer. She will update the Commission once the public hearing is scheduled.

e. Coastal Watershed Land Stewardship Survey

Renée McIsaac stated that a request was received to complete a survey assessing land stewardship needs within the coastal watershed. The Commission reviewed the survey questions together and provided responses.

4) Reports:

Review of Lilac Family Fun Festival and Community Input Session Some pictures of the events were shared with the group.

5) Old Business:

- a. Cocheco River clean-up planning A brief discussion was held regarding a future clean-up on the Cocheco River.
- b. Status update of proposed conservation properties A brief overview of current proposals was reviewed.

6) Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Sullivan and seconded by Dylan Dowe at 8:56pm; the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Renee McIsaac Planner I