

Rochester Conservation Commission

Minutes of the May 22, 2013 Meeting

(Approved June 26, 2013)

Members Present:

Deborah Shigo, Chair
Michael Dionne, Vice Chair
Meredeth Lineweber
Mark Jennings
Jack Hackett

Member Absent:

Jeff Winders

Staff: Caroline Lewis, Recording Secretary

The Chair convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes: The regular and non public meeting minutes of March 27th were reviewed. There was no meeting in April. Mark Jennings made a motion to accept both meetings minutes, seconded by Meredeth Lineweber. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Green Infrastructure for NH Coastal Communities
Elena Engle, Community Development Specialist
For Conservation Commission endorsement

Ms. Elena Engle, Community Development Specialist, addressed the Commission. She handed out an information sheet to the members and explained the City has an opportunity to apply for a grant that, if Rochester is selected, would mean a maximum of \$20,000 to Rochester. Ms. Engle stated funds will be granted to only 2 communities, and she has been working with Gretchen Young at Public Works to evaluate a possible use for this grant.

At this time there are at least four different documents within the City that deal with Low Impact Development (LID), Green Infrastructure (GI), and storm water best management practices. This would be an opportunity to hire a consultant to work on revising all ordinances and regulations and upgrading them, to identify area hot spots within the City, and to catalogue drainage reports so they can be utilized properly.

The Commission members and Ms. Engle discussed the presentations to the City, the Natural Resource Chapter of the Master Plan, the City backing the Conservation Commission's point of view, EPA regulations, and other issues.

Mark Jennings suggested that Ms. Engle contact Candace Dolan, at Great Bay, about the Hodgson Brook Project, and Jillian McCarthy at the DES office in Portsmouth, for general information.

After more discussion about the value of having a full time employee with the City to deal with the future EPA regulations, and other issues, Michael Dionne made a motion stating the Rochester Conservation Commission is in favor of submitting this grant. Meredeth Lineweber seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission members thanked Ms. Engle for her presentation.

Natural Resources Master Plan

Deborah Shigo informed the members she is meeting with the Community Development Committee tomorrow evening to discuss the Natural Resources Master Plan actions that were discussed by the Conservation Commission at the March meeting two months ago.

Rte 11 Park

The Conservation members discussed doing site walks on the property. The members will try to do individual site walks before the next Conservation Commission meeting. At the next meeting the members will discuss their opinions for uses for this parcel.

Monitoring properties – LeClair and Smith-Berube

After some discussion it was decided that the Chair and Michael Dionne will do the LeClair property and the Chair and Jack Hackett will do the Smith-Berube property. At the end of the meeting they will meet to set up a time to do the site walks.

Conservation Overlay District - Conditional Use Review:

None to discuss.

Dredge and Fill Applications:

Alteration of Terrain – Waste Management (Sanborn-Head)

The Commission members have reviewed the application and have no comments.

Violations:

Gear Road – Jack Hackett concerns and Codes

The members discussed this problem, and noted that Sheldon Perkins (Code Enforcement) had spoken to the property owner, and the property owner had done as requested. However, the Chair spoke to Mr. Perkins to inform him of the bottom line issues that were of concern to the Conservation Commission. The Chair asked Jack Hackett to follow up with Mr. Perkins about this matter. If the problem doesn't get resolved, the Conservation Commission will contact the State.

Correspondence:

- a) NHDES Letter/The Village at Clark Brook/Map 256 Lot 66 & Map 264 Lot 23/Off Old Dover Road
- b) NHDES Permit by Notification/Chesley Hill Road/Map 246 Lot 34-1
- c) Norway Plains Associates/Letter re: McGroen Partners/Map 123 Lot 65 & 66
- d) NHDES Alteration of Terrain Permit Application/Waste Management/Map 267 Lot 2 and Map 262 Lot 22
- e) State of New Hampshire/Letter re: DOT timber harvest in Rochester
- f) NHDES Letter & Permit/McGroen Partners/Map 123 Lot 65 & 66

The members discussed the correspondence. The Chair passed around emails she had received from Dave Price about the McGroen Partners project/Map 123 Lot 65 & 66.

Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber application

- 1 – Map 259 Lot 89 Hansonville Road
- 2 – Map 203 Lot 20 Cross Road
- 3 – Map 261 Lot 3-1 Chapman Drive
- 4 – Map 208 Lot 1-2 Two Rod Road (off Farmington Road
- 5 – Map 206 Lot 7 Channings Lane/Chestnut Hill Road

The members reviewed these applications.

Reports:

TRG Meetings

There is no member of the Commission available to attend the TRG meetings at this time.

OEP Conference and Storm Water Management/Mark Jennings

Mark Jennings stated the Storm Water Management workshop was pretty much all “we’re gon’na do this and we’re gon’na do that”. They did have a nice display and discussed the value of topo maps.

Mark Jennings attended the OEP Conference sessions which focused on floodplains, the Granite View mapping system, how the term 100 year flood is actually calculated, low impact development, green infrastructure, and other issues.

Deborah Shigo said she went to the Planning basics session and learned NOT to do site walks with a quorum of members as that makes it a meeting, someone has to take notes, notices need to be put up, and the public can attend. The members discussed having 3 or less on site walks to make it more workable.

49 Kipling Rock Road

Mark Jennings was asked by the Chair to do a site walk on this property and speak to the owner about part of the property being on the other side of a ditch approximately 12 ft wide and 4 feet deep. He owner showed Mark an old snowmobile bridge that was put there years ago. The owner would like to take his ATV and utility trailer across the bridge but it needs repair. Mark Jennings suggested he use some I-beams and corrugated decking. (Mark also thought it would be good for the Conservation Commission to have some sort of form to use in cases like this – he will work on one and bring it to a future meeting) The members discussed this situation and felt he owner would not be disturbing the wetlands by rebuilding his bridge.

Old Business:

Student Participation

Meredeth Lineweber and Jack Hackett are still working on this. Mark Jennings has given information to the professor at Great Bay Community College for implementation in the fall.

Other Business:

Public Relations

The Chair is still looking for different ideas on how to get information out to the public and have the community be aware of the role of the Conservation Commission.

**Interim Floodplain Mitigation Monitoring Report/Stoney Ridge/Brock Street/Map 131
Lot 62-2**

The members have reviewed this report and think the site is looking good!

**Non-Public Discussion Pursuant to RSA 91-a:3 II (d):
Discussion of acquisition of real property.**

At 7:45 p.m. Michael Dionne made a motion to go into non-public session. Jack Hackett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:25 p.m. Mark Jennings made a motion to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes. Jack Hackett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Misc Info.

The Chair announced there was going to be a plant sale this weekend and there is a workshop on June 24th that will cover wetland issues.

Adjournment:

At 8:30 p.m. Mark Jennings made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michael Dionne. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Lewis
Recording Secretary