

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Wally Smith at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Committee Members Present: Chair Smith, Bob Goodrich, Jane Johnson and Beverly Bernard.

ABSENT

Steven Stepenuck, Mike Morrison

OTHERS PRESENT

Residents Jill Amidon, Zy Nowakowski, Rob Hitchcock of SVE, Director of Public Works Lee Dunham, Town Administrator Michael Branley, Dave Bergeron of Brickstone Land Use Consultants, LLC

MINUTES

- Minutes of June 30, 2016 were considered. **Motion** by Johnson to approve the Minutes of June 30, 2016. There was a second from Goodrich. ***Motion passed.***

NEW BUSINESS

Public Input - Committee/Citizen Concerns

Jill Amidon and Zy Nowakowski were present to express interest regarding the possible acquisition of the South Road property and said they would wait to comment once they heard the Commission's discussion.

Water Protection Committee

It was confirmed that Andrew Madison is taking minutes for these meetings.

Swanzey Lake Property - Survey Results/ Border resolution

Smith said permission has been obtained from owners of the land for measurements to be taken.

Beaver problem Swanzey Lake

Smith said the Town has hired a trapper and can remove the beaver house on the Town property. Dunham said if a beaver house is on private property, it is up to the property owner to deal with the beaver. Amidon said the Town's solution is fine with her. She said logs wash up on her beach of various sizes. She also said that beavers are approaching other people in the water, slapping their tails. Amidon said that she thought the State of NH owns the lake and if the beaver are out in the water can't the State take care of them. Branley said just because they are there, doesn't mean the State will remove them unless they are doing damage. Smith mentioned that chicken wire around a tree will discourage beaver from damaging trees.

Trail Wright to help maintain our trails

Tabled to next meeting

Dam Repair Expedited Permit

Dunham explained the problem of a leak in the dam and the fix that needs to be done. He also spoke about the lower gate which is a metal pipe that is beginning to corrode, and it makes sense to fix it now rather than wait and have to lower the lake once again.

Motion was made by Bernard to approve the Expedited Wetlands permit, second by Goodrich. Discussion: Goodrich asked a question about how long the work will take and Dunham said it would be about a month. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Thomas Transportation expansion

Wetland concerns regarding the Expedited Wetland Permit. Dave Bergeron was present to discuss the need for expansion of the business. Bergeron said an acre is wetlands and backs up to Wilson Pond so they also need a Shoreline permit. He explained the expansion is the result of growing tour business and the addition on the building will serve the buses. He noted that 1125 square feet of forested wetland will be impacted by the addition and the driveway around it. It will impact about 2% of the total wetland area on the site. Bergeron went through the Wetlands Permit Application. He spoke about not being able to add to the south of the building because there isn't enough room for the addition and a driveway. He addressed the need for highway exposure with State Route 12 which is preferred to other sites that were considered. He noted that NH Division of Historical Resources signed off on the project because there were judged to be no historical properties affected. Bergeron talked about stabilizing the area impacted with loam and seed and all runoff will go into the existing retention pond, away from the impact area. He spoke about a holding tank to retain wash water for floor drains. Nothing from inside the building can go into the system and must go into the holding tank. There is a water/oil separator as well with the holding tank. Johnson said she was a bit uncomfortable with it since she is not familiar with site. Bernard agreed with her but said she was able to approve given the size impacted is quite small.

Motion was made by Goodrich to approve the Expedited Wetland Permit for the Thomas Transportation expansion and authorize the Chair to sign. Second to the motion by Johnson, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

The Chair took some time to sign the Expedited Wetland permits approved by the Commission.

Muster property Issues

Johnson said that vehicles are still going onto the river bank. The cable that was placed there to prevent vehicles from going on the river bank where erosion is occurring was unhooked. Placing boulders to prevent access was considered and discussed with Dunham. There was a discussion about building up the bank; large rocks could be placed there, but with the regulations governing the use of the river makes it problematic. Johnson suggested planting some shrubs as a possibility to help retain the bank. The Commission agreed by consensus that DPW place large boulders at the entrance at their convenience.

South Road proposed pocket park

Bernard explained the idea to create a small pocket park out of an acre of land that is in poor condition due to the presence of an old mill building and tractor trailer in the rear of the building. Amidon asked the Commission for assurance that there will be no building there. She expressed offense that the ZBA denied her application for creating a camp having worked with Tom Forest to create what she believed

was an acceptable septic system plan. She said it would not be fair to have to see the Town buy the property and put in facilities and asked from the Commission a guarantee that there would not be any toilet facilities on the site should the Town purchase the land. Smith said the Commission can only recommend to the Board of Selectmen that there be no building on the site. Amidon said she would be okay with a park on the land without any building or septic system. After Amidon and Nowakowski left, Goodrich suggested that if the Town does end up purchasing the land, the park could be named for the family who owned the land (the Nowakowski family).

Arlington Paving Expansion

Rob Hitchcock was present to discuss with the Commission proposed expansion of Arlington Paving business. He said the wetland delineation was changed at some point and it moved quite a bit (an estimate 40 feet or so). It is questionable as to why. There was discussion about the owner's admission that some wetland has been filled on the property. Smith suggested contacting the State of NH Department of Environmental Services for advice, since the owner's admission filled some wetlands and we need guidance as to next course of action. Hitchcock agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Financial Report

Smith passed out a financial report for the Commission.

Upcoming events of interest to the Commission

- Cheshire County Conservation Commissions upcoming Potluck at Stonewall Farm on Wednesday September 14, 2016 from 6-8:30 pm.
- Ashuelot River and Beaver Brook Annual Clean Up – Volunteers needed for Friday September 23 and 24th, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

There was a **motion** to adjourn by Johnson with a second from Goodrich. All were in favor. Adjournment occurred at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary