

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2013

Note: Minutes are subject to review, correction, and approval by the Commission. Review, correction, and approval of minutes generally occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission began at a gathering at the Collier property on Safford Drive at 3:00 p.m. and continued at Town Hall after the site visit. The meeting was called to order by Robert Goodrich, Vice Chair. Committee Members Present: Gary Coburn, Jane B. Johnson, Richard Dell'Erba, Stephen Stepenuck, and Michael Morrison.

ABSENT

Deb Crowder

MINUTES

- July 1, 2013 – minutes were read by Stepenuck. **Motion** by Morrison to accept the minutes, second by Johnson, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**
- June 3, 2013 – **Motion** by Johnson to accept the minutes with change to page 2, paragraph 3, line 4 of word “should” to “could”. The motion was seconded by Morrison, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

OTHERS PRESENT

Christian Boysen from Land Solutions, Scott & Carl Hastron from Monadnock Septic Design, LLC, and land owners, Scott & Helen Collier.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of the site plan for the Collier property began at 3:00 p.m. followed by a site walk through the property. Christian Boysen from Land Solutions led the review. First Boysen described the discussion he had with Kirsten Pulkinen from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Sources (DES) Wetlands Bureau regarding the plan for the wetlands in the development proposal. A number of changes were made based on the discussion with Pulkinen, including the possibility of replacing a bridge design with a large culvert. Boysen noted that there are 7.3 acres of wetlands on the property, which has a total of 25 acres. The development impact will be on 1.3 acres of the 7.3 acres. Boysen explained that there will be seven lots in the plan, with Lot 1 being separated from the property to offer it for sale first. Lot 1 has frontage on Old Homestead Highway. The other lots need frontage on a road and the plan involves building a road and several driveways. The Colliers plan to go to the Planning Board for site plan review. The purpose of this review of the site plan was to acquaint Conservation Commission members as to how the wetlands will be managed on the property.

During the walk through the woods, road plan and the wetlands were pointed out to the commission, as well as high land where building pads might be constructed. Stepenuck asked if an open bottom culvert could be done where there is a small brook on the property, and the response during the property walk was it would be considered. An open bottom culvert would allow easier passage by animals.

The group moved on to the Swanzey Town Hall and Boysen and the Hastrons, and once there the commission was asked if they had questions. When there were no further questions, Stepenuck thanked the Boysen, the Hastrons, and the Colliers for the review of the site plan and they left the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding possibilities for the culvert for the brook on the property. Discussion also went on regarding mitigation for the 1.3 acres that will be impacted. Several suggestions were made regarding possible compensation.

OLD BUSINESS

Airport Project

Goodrich passed to Stepenuck email correspondence regarding the airport project. Stepenuck summarized the contents of the email for the commission members. The document covered a phone conversation with Gregg Cohen with Stantech Inc. regarding the Keene Dillant Hopkins airport project. The airport is reconstructing the main runway. According to the document, the existing runway footprint is not being expanded, but the runway safety area is involved. The runway safety area is 400 feet wide from runway center line and 100 feet beyond the runway, and must be free of ditches, obstructions, etc. and able to support fire equipment. Some of the work includes culvert extension, including wetland fill. A new drainage swale is to be constructed. \$70,000 to ARM fund is being offered for mitigation. Stepenuck suggested a repair of the river bank be negotiated instead of using ARM funds.

Motion by Stepenuck to contact Stantech Inc. and tell them we do have a project for riverbank restoration that could be used for airport wetlands mitigation, second by Morrison, and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Riley Sign update

Francis Faulkner will be asked to pick up the sign, build a post, and set it up at the Riley conservation area.

Invasive Quote

Stepenuck mentioned talking to Jeff Taylor from Vegetation Control Services, Inc. about a quote for handling the invasive species that needs to be removed from the property. Vegetation Control Services has asked the commission to walk the Riley property to determine the area to be flagged for spraying. The land to be sprayed cannot be closer than 25 feet from the wetlands. The members of the commission suggested that Vegetation Control Services want the commission to perform the task of flagging so that Vegetation Control Services would not be subject to legal responsibility for the wetlands. The commission members did not feel confident about their ability to designate wetland areas.

Motion by Morrison to expend not more than \$200 for a wetlands scientist to take a look at the Riley conservation area to delineate the wetlands for invasive species planning, second by Johnson, and all were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Riley Property Management Plan – from Steve Roberge

Morrison suggested that the commission table the plan until Goodrich can provide the plan for review by all the members. Former commission member, Theresa DiLuzio, had reported to Goodrich that the plan had been accepted by the Board of Selectmen. Bernard checked the minutes from June 25, 2013 meeting of the Board of Selectmen and confirmed that the Board has accepted the plan. The commission will review the plan and discuss at next meeting.

Open Space Committee (OSC) report

As a member of the OSC, Bernard reported the recent activities of the committee. Morrison suggested that better communications between the OSC and the Conservation Commission is needed. Question arose about who is responsible for approval on use of Land Acquisition Account funds. In the discussion it was noted that funds were expended for the West Swanzey Athletic Association acquisition and the Conservation Commission was not consulted.

In another discussion regarding membership of the commission it was noted that courtesy/protocol should be followed regarding the decision about how to handle the membership of a person who is ill and unable to attend meetings. The commission felt that they should have been consulted before the Board of Selectmen made the decision about a member of the commission who is unable to attend meetings due to long standing illness.

SWRDC-NR

Morrison said that the agency has not had a meeting, so there was no news to report.

Mail Received

- Goodrich reported that Mr. Pratt received notice that his application was approved by the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for his existing pond.
- Goodrich reported that the commission has received drawings for the replacement bridge in Westport on Route 10, from the State of New Hampshire Wetlands Program Specialist.
- Public Service of New Hampshire – sent a report for dredging application for T-198 Transmission Line in Swanzey.
- Book from Paul Daniello regarding Soil Survey of Cheshire County New Hampshire issued in 1989 was received in the mail.

Conservation Funds Expended

A report was read regarding expenses approved by the Conservation Commission. A discussion was held as to where the money was spent. Morrison said that approximately \$800 was spent in support of young folks for summer camp. Coburn said that approximately \$500 was spent for tree cutting on Honey Hill but it wasn't clear how the rest of the money was spent and it looked like the Conservation Commission budget is in the negative numbers.

Motion by Johnson to ask for an itemized accounting of all commission expenses, second by Morrison, and all were in favor. **Motion passed.**

OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion was held about communications with the Board of Selectmen to air some issues and Johnson agreed to get on the agenda with the Board of Selectmen.

Stepenuck reported he attended the New Hampshire River Council, River Runner, Invasive Aquatic Plants Identification and Monitoring Workshop and handed out identification resources.

Johnson **moved** to adjourn, seconded by Morrison, all were in favor. **Motion passed.** Adjournment at p.m.6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverly Bernard".

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary