



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Second Floor Conference Room – 288 Central Ave., Dover, NH
Meeting Date: Monday, April 12, 2021
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair)

MEMBERS REMOTE: Steve Fellows (Vice Chair), Robert Atwood (Secretary), Amy Kramer-Perry, Jason Aube, Kristen Murphy (Alternate), Bruce Batchelder (Alternate)

Absent (Excused): Abigail Lyon, Richard Erickson

Absent (Un-excused):

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird, Christopher Parker

OTHERS PRESENT: (remotely) Steve Riker, Anne Macadam, Daniel Macadam, Councilor Lindsey Williams, Councilor Fergus Cullen, Conor Madison, Kurt Nelson, Elise Ward, others

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was convened at 5:32 PM.

Bill Hunt opened the meeting and read the following statement:

I find an ‘emergency’ exists within the meaning of RSA 91-A:2, III(b). Immediate action is imperative and the physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practical within the period of time requiring action. The facts on which my finding of an ‘emergency’ is based are the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the need to accommodate social distancing and minimization of in-person contacts, and this body’s ongoing, immediate need to address the important matters on the agenda for this meeting.

Hunt conducted a roll call to determine which members were present and asked each member to state that they are not attending due to COVID-19 and to indicate if they were alone at their location.

Fellows: I am not attending due to COVID-19 and am alone in my location.

Kramer-Perry: I am not attending due to COVID-19 and am alone in my location.

Aube: I am not attending due to COVID-19 and am alone in my location

Atwood: I am not attending due to COVID-19 and am alone in my location.

Murphy: I am not attending due to COVID-19 and am alone in my location.

Batchelder: I am not attending due to COVID-19 and am alone in my location.

2. CITIZEN’S FORUM: NONE

3. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – March 8, 2021

Kramer-Perry moved to approve the March 8, 2021 minutes, Fellows seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hunt Yes, Fellows Yes, Kramer-Perry Yes, Aube Yes, Atwood Abstained, Batchelder Yes, Murphy Yes. Motion passes 6-0, 1 abstention

4. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion Regarding Proposed FY 2022 Municipal Budget and Status Quo for Conservation Fund - Christopher Parker, Assistant City Manager: Director of Planning and Strategic Initiatives

Parker: The City is planning to utilize revenue from the Conservation Fund in the amount of \$100,000 to support planning assistance for conservation purposes, which is the same as last year. I am looking for your support for this expenditure.

Fellows: What is the current balance of the Conservation Fund?



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Bird: I don't have the exact number, but I believe it is approximately \$1.2 million.

Members discussed services provided and other uses of the Conservation Fund.

Aube moved to approve the funding as requested, Fellows seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hunt Yes, Fellows Yes, Kramer-Perry Yes, Aube Yes, Atwood Yes, Batchelder Yes, Murphy Yes. Motion passes 7-0

- B. NHDES Standard Wetlands Permit for the Marie Hebert Revocable Trust of 6 Cullen Bay, (Agent: Steve Riker, Ambit Engineering, Inc.), Assessor's Map M, Lot 92-G, zoned R-40, located at 6 Cullen Bay Road.

Steve Riker was present to explain the proposal to replace an existing dock with a new dock having a 6' x 165' fixed wood pier, a 3' x 50' gangway, a 8' x 10' landing float, and an 8' x 40' float, in the tidal Cochecho River. The project creates 1,540 square feet of permanent impact to tidal water. DES accepted the application on 3/29/21. The float sits on the mud during low tide now. Float will be secured by helical piles, with 3 sets of batter piles that are fiberglass. The harbormaster has indicated that there is no impact to the federal channel.

Hunt: What is the current size of the float? What is the reason for a larger float?

Riker: It is maybe 10' x 30'. It is larger to accommodate two boats, one on each side. It is longer then the dock to the north.

Aube: The state rules limit dock length based on shore frontage, they are not proposing maximum.

Murphy moved to endorse the application as presented, Kramer-Perry seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hunt Yes, Fellows Yes, Kramer-Perry Yes, Murphy Yes, Aube Yes, Atwood Yes, Batchelder Yes. Motion passes 7-0

- C. Request for expenditures from the Conservation Fund for:

1. Dover Community Garden Group – Expenses to Establish a Community Garden on Garrison Hill – not to exceed \$8,846 for Community Garden Expenses and not to exceed \$5,000 for water & electric service

Anne Macadam and Daniel Macadam were present to explain their request for funds to create a community garden on Garrison Hill. We have had a dream of having a community garden in the city. Their mission statement was presented. The area for the garden would be 5,000 square feet next to the water tower, with 30 plots of 4' x 12' and a deer fence. We did a survey and got 85 responses, which show strong support for this. We are waiting on a final quote on fixing the water line. We are going to the City Council on Wednesday for their approval.

Hunt: How will the garden be managed? Who will be policing the area?

A. Macadam: We have an 8 person board of trustees to make decisions and oversee the garden.

Aube: Are you modeling this after any examples?

D. Macadam: We have looked at examples from Denver, Seattle and all over the country but also some local examples.

Murphy: How will you manage compost and set limits on what can be planted?

D. Macadam: We will be adding compost to the soil in the first year and will have a compost bin for the future. We will use containers for some plants to prevent spread.



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Murphy: How will the membership fees be handled? Are the fees going to be held by the City?

A. Macadam: The fees will go into sustaining the garden expenses moving forward.

Aube: You should be concerned about invasive species.

Fellows: What would happen if the garden is not successful and is abandoned?

A. Macadam: We are hopeful that won't happen but with the good soil we put there, grass would grow back.

Hunt: Would it be reasonable to have a contingency fund or plan to reclaim the site?

Aube: Have you reached out to companies like Mr. Fox to ask about donating compost?

A. Macadam: We are hoping for in-kind donations of goods and services to support the garden. We may use extra donated funds for a second site on County property.

Bird: On the fund issue raised, all donations and fees would not come to the City or go through the City accounting system. The trustees would handle the group's finances.

Murphy moved to approve the expenditure of \$14,000 from the Conservation Fund for the community garden, with a request to have the trustees develop a reclamation plan to restore the site if the garden ends, Kramer-Perry seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hunt Yes, Fellows Yes, Kramer-Perry Yes, Aube Yes, Atwood Yes, Batchelder Yes, Murphy Yes. Motion passes 7-0

D. City of Dover Conditional Use Permit for Eversource Energy, Assessor's Map I, Lot 22, owned by Sun Jensen LLC; Assessor's Map I, Lot 27, owned by Stephen & Phebe Colprit Revocable Living Trust at 33 Meserve Road; Assessor's Map K, Lot 8-A, owned by Frances & Thomas Mulligan at 89 Back Road; Assessor's Map K, Lot 1, owned by Susan & Peter Rousseau at 200 Henry Law Ave.; Assessor's Map K, Lot 6-A, owned by Broadcast Lane LLC at 101 Back Road, zoned R-40; Assessor's Map K, Lot 2, owned by NH Fish & Game off Henry Law Ave., zoned R-12; and Assessor's Map K, Lot 4-C, owned by City of Dover off Henry Law Ave., zoned CWD.

Conor Madison was present to explain the proposal to replace six existing utility pole structures in a utility easement, with temporary wetland impacts of 41,999 square feet and temporary 50-foot wetland buffer impacts of 31,341 square feet. We are following the utility maintenance line manual. All new poles will be steel to replace wooden poles. Three poles need to be replaced in May as they are classified as in need of emergency repair. We will use erosion control and timber mats to reduce impacts. GZA will be doing the field monitoring. We already have the NHDES Shoreland Permit.

Murphy: Can you explain the secondary access option on the City parcel? Could you delay the work if access from the City is not granted to avoid impacting spring species?

K. Nelson of Eversource: We have worked with Fish & Game to minimize impacts on their land. We have created habitat on that parcel for the NE cottontails. We can't really delay the work because we are coordinating many poles with contractors. I don't see why the alternative access won't work.

Aube moved to endorse the application as presented, Fellows seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hunt Yes, Fellows Yes, Kramer-Perry Yes, Erickson Yes, Aube Yes, Lyon Yes, Murphy Yes. Motion passes 7-0

6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Review of Correspondence Received From NH Department of Environmental Services:



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1. DES Letter to Brian Stern about Forestry PBN for timber harvest plan you approved in 2019.
 2. DES Wetlands Permit for Wesson dock at 407 Dover Point Road you approved in 2018
 3. DES Wetlands Permit for Schmolka at 175 Spur Road you approved in 2015.
- B. Review of Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report
- Aube, who is a member, explained the annual report and the functions of the committee.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Update on Committee to Work on Amendments to Wetland Protection District Ordinance

Bird: The City has applied for a PREP grant to hire a consultant to assist in reviewing the ordinance in partnership with the SRPC. The application was for \$6,500 from PREP with a \$4,000 local match. We will know by April 26th if we are successful. The committee has another meeting tomorrow to work on amendments.

B. ADJOURNMENT

Fellows moved to adjourn at 7:00 PM, Murphy seconded. Roll Call Vote: Hunt Yes, Fellows Yes, Kramer-Perry Yes, Batchelder Yes, Aube Yes, Atwood Yes, Murphy Yes. Motion passes 7-0