



CITY OF DOVER

WETLAND PROTECTION ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Type: Wetland Protection Ordinance Sub-Committee Meeting
Meeting Location: First Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 288 Central Ave, Dover NH
Meeting Date: **Monday November 22, 2021**
Meeting Time: **5:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Landry (Chair), Jason Aube, Bill Hunt (left at 6:20), Kristen Murphy

Absent (Excused): Bruce Batchelder

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird

OTHERS PRESENT: Abigail Lyon (left at 5:25), Autumn Scott, Kyle Pimental, Tracy Tarr

Landry did a roll call.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2021

Murphy moved to approve the minutes, Landry seconded. Vote: Motion passes 4-0

2. Citizen's Forum – No one present

3. Discuss Revised Wetland Functions and Value Survey Results

Scott reviewed the revised survey results. The top four responses were unchanged from last meeting and were groundwater recharge, flood storage, water quality and ecological integrity.

4. Discuss Wetland Assessment Methods and Potential Ordinance Amendments

Scott distributed a version of the ordinance that is slightly different and includes Lyon's comments and used the most updated amended ordinance. The ordinance was reviewed page by page.

Discussed the NH Method versus the highway method. The NH Method is preferred because it is less subjective, uses a numerical scoring system to assess values, it is more repeatable by different people and will be more consistent for applicants to use. It doesn't include vernal pools but that is addressed later in the ordinance.

Wetlands scientists will be making the assessment on a case by case basis. Discussed the likelihood of peer review being necessary and if that should be added to the ordinance.

Discussed the potential of the City hiring a consultant to prepare a city-wide survey of all wetlands and using that information to determine the buffer distances for each wetland based on their functions and values.

Tarr: That work would take up to 6 months to prepare and likely cost about \$20,000.

Bird: That work can't be completed under this grant and would require new grant funding. It would be a new project.

We could use the GIS maps to truth check the applications submitted to see if they make sense.

Decided to move the wording on sheds and decks to section G-(h) and use square footage instead of %.

Discussed the idea of not requiring a CUP for limited buffer impacts, especially in already impacted areas. Previously developed versus undeveloped areas. The original idea was to not require a NH Method analysis for smaller projects. Tarr recommends using the average score. Discussed various size thresholds from 500 to 3,000 square feet.

The proposed tables of buffer widths were reviewed.

The example from Atkinson was reviewed to see how various wetlands were scored. Discussed the desire to use scores from several communities to develop an average that we could use for the tables.

Discussed the issue of vernal pools and decided to use the state definition.

We may want to do an assessment of two different wetlands to see how the scoring works.

Goal is to require less CUP's for smaller projects. Discussed using whole numbers in the table.



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5. Strategize Public Outreach

This topic will be included on the next agenda.

6. Adjournment

The date for the next meeting was discussed. Settled on December 20th as next meeting date since the project needs to keep moving forward and the goal is to finish the ordinance amendments by February so there is time to go to the Planning Board before the end of the contract on April 30, 2022. With Bird handing over the committee support to Donna Benton, he will check with her on that date.

Landry declared the meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.