



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Conference Room - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: Monday, June 12, 2023
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Robert Atwood (Secretary), Amy Kramer-Perry, Kristen Murphy, Jake Geddes (Alternate)

Absent (Excused): Steve Fellows (Vice Chair), Abigail Lyon, Bruce Batchelder (Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Jackson Kaspari – Resilience Manager, Erin Bassegio – Outreach Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilor Lindsey Williams, Eric Weinrieb, Sergio Bonilla, Mark West, Jake Kritzer, Anna Boudreau

J. Geddes arrived at 5:56 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was convened at 5:30 PM.

2. CITIZENS' FORUM

3. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – May 8, 2023

K. Murphy moved to approve the May 8, 2023 minutes, A. Kramer-Perry seconded. Vote: 4 yes.

4. OLD BUSINESS: None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- A.** City of Dover Conditional Use Permit for Peter T. Paul Living Trust, (Agent: Altus Engineering), Assessor's Map N, Lot 8-1-4, zoned R-40, located at 56 Saddle Trail Drive. Proposal is to install a sport court in the back yard creating 2,070 square feet of impact to the wetland buffer.

E. Weinrieb was present to explain the application.

J. Aube: What type of wetlands are on site today?

E. Weinrieb: Freshwater emergent wetlands.

E. Weinrieb explained the location and reason for the plantings which will assist with protection of the wetland areas from any mowing or further alteration.

J. Aube: Would you say the wetlands are low functioning and low value?

E. Weinrieb: Yes, but we are still trying to enhance the area with plantings and use the plantings to protect what is there. Eight shrubs were placed to regain a wetland area that had previously been maintained as lawn.

J. Aube: So, there is an opportunity for restoration here?

E. Weinrieb: Yes, and we've engaged in restoration efforts to date.

J. Aube emphasized that when there are buffer impacts, it's nice for there to be a tradeoff where another area of the buffer is either restored and/or enhanced.

R. Atwood asked for pictures to be displayed which J. Kaspari brought up onto the screen.



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The Commission reviewed the pre- and post-impervious area per J. Aube's request.

K. Murphy: Why was the decision made to engaged in restoration for two of the three wetland areas?

E. Weinrieb: DES did not identify the lower wetland area as a priority.

J. Aube moved to endorse the application provided that the applicant allow for natural restoration to occur within the wetland areas and increases the number of plantings to further enhance the wetland buffer. K. Murphy seconded. Vote: 5 yes.

- B.** City of Dover Conditional Use Permit for Gary Gletow and Christine Trayner, (Agent: West Environmental, Inc.), Assessor's Map 8, Lot 41A, zoned R-20, located at 17 Wentworth Terrace. Proposal is to replace an existing deck in kind and build an addition of a second story vaulted ceiling to the existing house creating 860 square feet of temporary impact to the Conservation District.

M. West was present to explain the application. He emphasized that all impacts are temporary in nature and that the lawn area would be restored post construction activities.

A. Kramer-Perry moved to endorse the application as presented. R. Atwood seconded. Vote: 5 yes and 1 abstention.

- C.** Public Hearing, in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, for the purpose of receiving public input on a proposal to expend \$21,000 from the Conservation Fund to cover a survey and transaction costs associated with the acceptance of a donated 10.39-acre conservation easement. The parcel that would contain the proposed conservation easement is known as Map B, Lot 8A, located at 39 County Farm Cross Road and is owned by the Nancy L. Ekola Revocable Trust of 2018.

Conservation Commission vote to follow public hearing.

J. Kaspari presented the background on the conservation easement project. Open Lands Committee Chair Anna Boudreau was also in attendance to answer questions and provide additional perspective. Kaspari explained that it was exciting to bring this project public after working with the Ekolas over approximately the last two years. They have generously offered to donate the conservation easement and as such the request includes funding for the City to cover the cost of a survey associated with the recording of the conservation easement. The proposed conservation easement abuts the Day/Truax easement and is close to other existing conservation easements. It also contains some of the highest ranked wildlife habitat in New Hampshire, soils of prime and statewide importance, a scenic viewshed, and historic cemetery.



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B. Hunt opened the public hearing.

J. Jewell of 612 County Farm Cross Road asked for some additional details on the area for the proposed conservation easement and if there was going to be public access.

A. Boudreau explained the area for the proposed easement and the area that would be left out surrounding the existing house.

There is no intention for public access but that is something dictated by the owner and not the City.

It was emphasized that the conservation easement would be in place perpetually.

A. Kramer-Perry asked for confirmation that there are sufficient monies available in the Conservation Fund which Kaspari confirmed.

J. Geddes moved to authorize the \$21,000 expenditure from the Conservation Fund. J. Aube seconded. Vote 6 yes.

K. Murphy: Taking a moment here to acknowledge the generous donation by the Ekolas.

- D.** Public Hearing, in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, for the purpose of receiving public input on a proposal to expend \$556,000 and an additional \$11,000 associated with transaction costs from the Conservation Fund to purchase a 9.52-acre conservation easement on the parcel located at 170 Garrison Road. The parcel is known as Map J, Lot 3A and is owned by Mr. David Stockbower and Mrs. Raquel Stockbower. ***Conservation Commission vote to follow public hearing.***

J. Kaspari presented the background on the project. Kaspari explained that it was exciting to bring this project public after working with the Stockbowers over approximately the last two years. There is a signed purchase and sales agreement in place. The agreed to purchase price is a reduction from the appraised value for the proposed conservation easement determined by a qualified appraiser the City retained. The property has strong conservation features, which include the highest ranked wildlife habitat in New Hampshire, soils of prime and statewide importance and close proximity to the Bellamy River. The proposed conservation easement would help extend an extensive protected corridor along the Bellamy River containing hundreds of acres.

A. Boudreau explained the history of interest in this parcel and the appreciation for working with the Stockbowers on this.

A. Kramer-Perry moved to authorize the \$567,000 expenditure from the Conservation Fund. R. Atwood seconded. Vote: 6 yes.

K. Murphy thanked the owners for the discounted purchase price and stated appreciation for moving this project forward.



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E. Community Trail Receptacles - \$5,000 funding request.

E. Bassegio was present to explain the funding request which was brought forward by the Community Trail Advisory Committee. The receptacles would be split between the Whittier Street and Watson Road trailheads to help with littering issues on the Community Trail. A private donation was received to cover a portion of the purchase and installation costs.

B. Hunt: How many units?

E. Bassegio: Two trash and two recycling.

B. Hunt: Will these be secured in any way?

E. Bassegio: Yes, they will be bolted to concrete slabs.

J. Aube expressed concern over dumping by non-trail users. Are there signs discussing carry in and carry out?

E. Bassegio discussed the locations for that messaging and how planning is underway to increase signage.

K. Murphy moved to authorize the \$5,000 expenditure from the Conservation Fund with the consideration that the character of the conservation land will be improved through this effort. R. Atwood seconded. Vote: 5 yes.

F. Continued discussion on Indigenous Foraging Policy

J. Kritzer, Chair of the Durham Conservation Commission, was present to answer questions and discuss the process for Durham's adoption of an Indigenous Foraging Policy.

B. Hunt: Asked about management for public and private property as well as the administrative components.

J. Kritzer: The intent was not to create any new rights that did not exist or unique rights for any certain groups. In many ways this policy is symbolic but that concept was supported by indigenous leaders that were consulted through the process. This is meant to be a recognition and invitation for people to act upon allowed foraging rights. Interested people are invited to reach out to discuss foraging on Town owned property to let the Commission know what you're up to and what you found.

A. Kramer-Perry excused herself from the meeting at 6:34 pm.

B. Hunt: Have there been any objections raised?

J. Kritzer: None that I'm aware of. The Town Administrator and Attorney wanted to be careful about not creating any new rights or offering access to one specific population of people.

B. Hunt thanked Jake for his time.

K. Murphy: What are the next steps? I am supportive about this approach.

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6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Review of Correspondence Received from NH Department of Environmental Services

J. Kaspari: The City was included on correspondence regarding the enforcement case and restoration work plan for 56 Saddle Trail Drive. NHDES was satisfied with the restoration progress.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Update from Forest Management Subcommittee

City Staff will prep the tree boxes in the near future. Funding is in place for 9 tree installments. The nursery is advising on the selection of the trees. Planting should begin in the next week.

R. Schnable on the Subcommittee helped draft a letter to UVM Professor Margaret Skinner with Branch Out Burlington. She is traveling abroad until mid-June. The next step is to reach out with a formal list of questions. Margaret said she can connect the Subcommittee with different volunteers within the organization as needed.

J. Kaspari connected Ethan Bryson – Founder of Natural Urban Forests. He provided project management for the successful creation of a pocket forest at Denehy Park in Cambridge, MA. Kaspari reported some key figures that Ethan shared with him. As a next step Kaspari will invite Ethan to present at the June Subcommittee meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

K. Murphy motioned to adjourn. J. Geddes seconded. Vote: 5 yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.