

CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Conference Room - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Steve Fellows (Vice Chair), Robert Atwood (Secretary), Jake Geddes (Alternate), Bruce Batchelder (Alternate), Abigail Lyon

Absent (Excused): Jay Aube, Amy Kramer-Perry, Kristen Murphy

STAFF PRESENT: Jackson Kaspari – Resilience Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilor Williams, Steve Riker, Kathleen Blake

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was convened at 5:30 PM.

2. CITIZENS' FORUM

Kathleen Blake, Racial Equity and Inclusion Committee member spoke in favor of the Traditional Foraging Rights item on the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – September 11, 2023

A. Lyon moved to approve the minutes of September 11th as submitted. S. Fellows seconded.

Vote: 4 yes with R. Atwood and J. Geddes abstaining.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. NHDES Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application for Robert A. Pruyn Revocable Trust, (Agent: Ambit Engineering, Inc.), Assessor's Map N Lot 22-C-8, zoned R-40, located at 10 Gerry's Lane. Proposal is to construct a tidal dock adjacent to the Cocheco River. The proposed docking structure consists of a 4' x 5' accessway, a 4' x 30' fixed wood pier, a 3' x 42' gangway and a 10' x 20' float totaling 20 square feet of permanent impact to the previously developed Tidal Buffer Zone and 446 square feet of permanent impact to tidal wetlands.

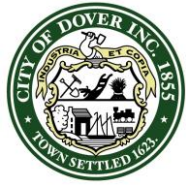
Steve Riker, project manager for Ambit Engineering presented the item and described the action taken so far including surveying the property and designing the dock. He described details of the property, the proposed dock, and the river/ wetlands area. They are coordinating with NHDES, Army Corp of Engineers and Natural Heritage Bureau to follow requirements.

S. Fellows moved to endorse the proposal as presented. B. Batchelder seconded. Vote: 6 yes

B. Recognizing Traditional Foraging Rights on City of Dover Public Conservation Lands

The Commission received a resolution describing what the City is proposing.

J. Kaspari noted there has been discussion about this topic at previous meetings. The proposal intends to satisfy concerns from the City legal office and Planning Director. City Council has the authority to approve the resolution. The first steps are for the Commission to review and adopt the policy language provided and adopt it as the Conservation Commission's policy towards Traditional Foraging Rights on City of Dover Public Conservation Lands.



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J. Kaspari clarified the process for communication and notification of the foraging and where in the document that is noted. Also, the Open Lands Committee has not seen these documents, though they are aware of the conversations.

Commission members preferred to seek additional feedback from other committees such as Open Lands and Racial Equity to confirm the language meets their standards. Official votes of approval are not being sought, but to have the documents sent out to them and receive feedback before the next Commission meeting.

S. Fellows moved to table the item to the November meeting in order to receive feedback from Open Lands Commission and Committee for Racial Equity and Inclusion. A. Lyon seconded. Vote: 6 yes

C. Update on Active Land Conservation Projects

J. Kaspari presented this update to the Commission using photos and maps to highlight the status of multiple projects including:

- Arch Street Property, Map 11 Lot 14
- Ekola Property, Map B Lot 8A
- Stockbower Property, Map J Lot 3A
- Lombard Property, Map A Lot 23-1

He answered a few follow up questions from Commission members.

6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

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

J. Kaspari noted the receipt of complaints at 120 Dover Point Rd. Correspondence was received from NHDES upholding what the City found which is no wetlands violations.

A member of the public commented that his property at 51 Tuttle Lane has 20 springs on it. He warned that not all information available is complete.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Update from Forest Management Subcommittee

S. Fellows reported Anna Boudreau is stepping down from the commission and there is another person interested in participating on the subcommittee. He is a licensed forester in Dover and has participated in the meetings previously.

S. Fellows moved to endorse Russ Warnock to join the Forest Management Subcommittee. A. Lyon seconded. Vote: 6 yes

Member Comment: Conservation Commission and Strafford Regional Planning Commission applied for a grant to develop a natural resource inventory.

8. ADJOURNMENT

S. Fellows motioned to adjourn. A. Lyon seconded. Vote: 6 yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.