



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: First Floor Conference Room - 288 Central Avenue Dover NH
Meeting Date: Monday, July 9, 2012
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Marcia Gasses, Lauren Jacoby, Ron Hebert, Cora Quisumbing-King

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird (City Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: Mindy Bubier,

The meeting was convened by Chair Hunt at 5:38 PM. Hunt said that Calabro may be late due to a doctors appointment.

1. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MINUTES

Jacoby moved to approve the June 11, 2012 minutes, Quisumbing-King seconded. Vote: Unanimous

2. OLD BUSINESS- NONE

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request for expenditure from the Conservation Fund for Apple Harvest Day booth rental for Open Lands Committee

Bird reported that the Open Lands Committee is requesting an expenditure from the Conservation Funds for the booth rental for Apple Harvest Day in the amount of \$75. This is an annual request.

Gasses moved to approve the expenditure of \$75 from the Conservation Fund as requested, Hebert seconded. Vote: Unanimous

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Bird distributed copies of the “Nonpoint Source Management 2011 Annual Report” from NH Department of Environmental Services. There is an article about Willand Pond.

Bird reported that he and Quisumbing-King had attended a session sponsored by the Nature Conservancy on Great Bay regarding the Oyster Bed restoration project.

Gasses said that there was going to be a workshop on how to read plans but she could not remember the details and said she would look at her e-mail.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Informational Update from Mindy Bubier on Berry Brook Restoration Project

Bubier was present to provide an update on the restoration of the section of Berry Brook that runs behind the Sixth Street Station Condominiums. She mentioned that the northern section is 99% done and they are working on a tour for municipal officials. They may have a ribbon cutting in August.



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They have been working with the homeowners of the condominium to develop a Memorandum of Understanding. The work will remove a 12” culvert that is the outlet for Berry Brook. A pedestrian bridge would be installed and wetlands upstream would be restored. Two other footbridges are proposed for the Community Trail section. A trail grant has been applied for.

Quisumbing-King: What is a coir log?

Bubier: It is a prefabricated log designed to control erosion and slow down water flow.

Hunt: Is the work completed to date doing the intended job?

Bubier: No analytical testing has been done yet, but it is a tried and true method. Rains gardens will help treat nonpoint pollution.

Hebert stepped down on the next agenda item.

B. Discussion of Washington Highlands Easement Management Plan

Hunt and Bird had a meeting with Attorney Krans to discuss this issue and provide him with background.

Hunt: The outcome of that meeting was an idea to discuss with the association the possibility of enlarging the lots that the homes sit on to give them a reasonable backyard. A fair market price for the land would have to be established and a lot line adjustment plan would have to be prepared.

Gasses: This approach makes a lot of sense. The design of the open space lot didn't make sense.

Bird: I spoke with Gerard Goubert, the new president of the association today and he had a few questions, but thought the idea was worth pursuing. There are a lot of details to be worked out.

Hebert: Some of the lots back right up to the wetlands now so expanding the lot would not be feasible.

Gasses: We would not want to include wetland areas because that would encourage future encroachment problems.

Hebert: Expanding the lots would be to many owners advantage.

Hunt: There is still the issue of how to handle the maintenance of the open space lot.

Hebert: The open space lot needs to be properly mowed, not when it is wet.

Hunt: Don Kierstead of NRCS was on the right track. Management plan is still important and could be part of the package with the lot line adjustment.

The consensus was to pursue this approach.



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Bird: If the HOA supports the idea at their meeting tomorrow night, we will need to establish a sub-committee to work out the details.

Hebert: Should the association wait on the management plan and what about mowing the field?

Bird: I would wait a while to see how much progress is made with this new approach.

Hunt: Mowing should be done in the dry areas only due to the presence of wetlands. The association should tell the contractor where to mow and use common sense.

Hebert rejoined the Commission.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Gasses motioned to adjourn at 6:30 PM. Jacoby seconded. Vote: Unanimous