



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, March 12, 2012
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Lauren Jacoby, Ron Hebert, Kevin Perron, Deb Calabro, Cora Quisumbing-King

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird (City Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: John Whitcomb

The meeting was convened by Chair Hunt at 5:30 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MINUTES

Jacoby moved to approve the February 13, 2012 minutes as presented, Perron seconded. Vote: Unanimous

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Revision to NHDES Minimum Impact Expedited Permit for NH Department of Transportation (Agent: John Whitcomb – BL Companies), Assessor's Map 8, Lot 26, zoned R-20, located at Hilton Park on US Route 4/NH Route 16 for the Little Bay Bridge project. Proposal is to impact 200± sq. ft. of shore land to construct a natural gas pipeline by means of a horizontal directional drill under Little Bay/Piscataqua River. Revision is to construct 113 feet of gas pipeline to connect to the existing gas transmission line. **Buffer impact was endorsed by Conservation Commission on December 12, 2011.**

John Whitcomb of BL Companies was present to explain the revised proposal, which is to construct 113 feet of gas pipeline to connect to the existing gas transmission line. The Army Corps of Engineers required that the project be permitted as a whole so they had to include the connection to the transmission line as part of this permit application. There is very little additional impact as the line goes away from the closest shoreline.

Calabro: Has Newington reviewed this revision yet?

Whitcomb: Yes I was there last week.

Hunt asked for clarification on the location of the existing transmission line.

Whitcomb showed where it was on the display map.

Calabro motioned to endorse the revised application, Hebert seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Bird said there is a workshop scheduled for March 22nd dealing with "Planning for Local Water Supply" and sponsored by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. This one is free to attend and you can register online.

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- A. Discussion on Saving Special Places Conference – April 14, 2012



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Bird explained that this conference is put on annually by the UNH Cooperative Extension and many other sponsors. It costs \$60 to attend if you sign up by April 6th and the Planning Department can pay for a couple of members if you are interested. Let Bird know if you want to attend as soon as possible.

B. Discussion on the City Council Appointment Committee's Decision

Hunt said that he learned that the Appointments Committee voted to not reappointment Vice Chair Gasses to the Conservation Commission, citing what they termed a conflict of interest. This recommendation will be discussed at the March 14th City Council meeting. Hunt stated that RSA 673:7 specifically allows for one Planning Board member to also be a member of the Conservation Commission. He distributed copies of the state law. Hunt expressed his concern that no real reason for concern was expressed. Hunt said that Gasses is the most experienced member and that her being a Planning Board member is advantageous to the Conservation Commission.

Calabro asked what they could do to get this changed. Hunt said that speaking during Citizen Forum Wednesday night would be a good way to do that. Members expressed concern that they have had quorum issues and losing a valuable member would make that worse.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Hebert stepped down on the next agenda item.

A. Update on Morrison Lane Conservation Easement Monitoring

Bird explained that he had received numerous e-mails from the Board of Directors regarding the proposal from Don Keirstead of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. They are trying to set up a meeting with all residents so that questions and concerns can be addressed.

Calabro: If we attended, what would our role be at the meeting?

Bird: Observation only.

Bird displayed a map provided to him from Ron Hebert depicting the areas around units that will not be mowed anymore. This plan would be part of the proposed management plan. Hunt said that the plan should include provisions for control of invasive species.

Hebert rejoined the Commission.

Bird distributed flyers for the Dover 2023 process that is underway. Hunt encouraged members to attend on of the sessions.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Quisumbing-King motioned to adjourn at 6:10 PM. Jacoby seconded. Vote: Unanimous