



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 8, 2013
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren Jacoby, Ron Hebert, Cora Quisumbing-King, Kris Houle

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird (City Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: None

In the absence of the Chair or Vice-Chair the board members discussed how to proceed and decided to select a member as temporary chair.

Quisumbing-King made a motion to nominate Houle as temporary chair, Jacoby seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

The meeting was convened by Houle at 5:45 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Quisumbing-King moved to approve the June 10, 2013 minutes, Hebert 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 stated that annually the OLC has a booth at AHD and since they have no budget, the \$75 fee has come from the Conservation Fund.

Quisumbing-King made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$75 from the Conservation Fund for Apple Harvest Day booth rental for Open Lands Committee, Jacoby seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Hebert: We need to make sure the Trails Committee has a better handout showing the Community Trail.

- B. Request for expenditure from the Conservation Fund for Cassily Field Mowing by Bob Sherwood Landscape Co.

Bird stated that since the Cassily property was protected partially with money from the Conservation Fund, the mowing of the open field is paid out of the Conservation Fund and the Community Trail/sewer easement portion is paid by Community Services. This year the bill is \$585.

Jacoby: How often is the field mowed?

Bird: I believe it is one a year.

Hebert: Do we have a deed for the property that spells out that mowing is allowed?

Bird: Yes the deed allows mowing and is monitored by the state.



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Jacoby made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$585 from the Conservation Fund for Cassily Field Mowing by Bob Sherwood Landscape Co., Hebert seconded. Vote: Unanimous

- C. Request for expenditure from the Conservation Fund for two conservation easement appraisals for Open Lands Committee

Bird said that the OLC is working with two property owners on potential conservation easements and one of the first steps is to have an appraisal done to determine the value of the easement. The City will go out to bid to select an appraiser to conduct both appraisals at the same time, so the final cost is not known, but it is expected that the cost would not exceed \$8,000 in total.

Hebert: Does this have to go to the City Council?

Bird: The appraisal portion does not but if an expenditure for an easement is requested, that would.

Quisumbing-King: How does the OLC rate the property?

Bird: The OLC has a criteria rating sheet that it uses when it walks a property to make sure it is worthy of protection.

Hebert: Is there a limit to how much land will be protected?

Bird: This was discussed during the master plan update process and it was decided that a limit was not a good idea as there may be more land worthy of protection.

Quisumbing-King: Have you ever gotten to the point where an appraisal was done but the deal did not happen?

Bird: Yes it has happened on a few occasions if we can't reach agreement on a price.

Hebert: How much money is in the Conservation Fund now?

Bird: There is in excess of \$400,000.

Jacoby made a motion to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$8,000 from the Conservation Fund for two appraisals for conservation easements for the Open Lands Committee, Quisumbing-King seconded. Vote: Unanimous

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

- A. Review of Correspondence Received

Bird reported that John Gesek of 127 Spur Road received a permit from NHDES on July 1, 2013.

Bird stated that he had received a letter from the NHDOT that was sent to NHDES about additional wetland impacts associated with the Newington/Dover Bridge project, but that they were in Newington.

Bird distributed copies of a letter that the City manager sent to NH Fish & Game following up on the request from the Conservation Commission regarding expanding liability protection related to the NE Cottontail release.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE CHAPTER

1. Evaluate City-owned Tracts For Conservation Value and Permanent Protection



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Bird: I have sent the list to Bill Boulanger and asked him to see if there are some parcels that he would want removed from the list. I have not had a chance to meet with Gasses yet but we have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday afternoon and then the entire group can meet.

2. Raise Public Awareness of Accessible Conservation Lands

Quisumbing-King: The OLC knows more about this. Information could be developed for Apple Harvest Day.

Bird: This information was developed during the master plan update and there is a map of public accessibility property. The question is how to distribute the information.

3. Re-invigorate the Conservation Commission

6. ADJOURNMENT

Hebert motioned to adjourn at 6:24 PM. Quisumbing-King seconded. Vote: Unanimous