



**CITY OF DOVER**

## DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Special Meeting  
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers - 288 Central Avenue Dover NH  
Meeting Date: Monday, March 3, 2014  
Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Hunt (Chair), Cora Quisumbing-King, Kris Houle, Michael Joyce (Alternate)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Steve Bird (City Planner), Dave White

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Councilor Jason Gagnon, Duncan Mellor, Steve Haight, Danna Truslow, Anna Boudreau, Kevin Lucey, Tom Fargo, Bill Jacobsmeyer, Cecile Jacobsmeyer, Brendan Newell, Jill Bartolotta, Karla Baxter, Cheri Patterson, Chuck Corliss, Deborah Loiselle, others

The meeting was convened by Hunt at 6:03 PM.

### 1. WELCOME BY BILL HUNT – CHAIR OF THE DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Hunt welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Duncan Mellor.

### 2. PRESENTATION ON PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF SAWYER MILL DAMS REMOVAL FEASIBILITY STUDY – BELLAMY RIVER

#### A. Duncan Mellor, PE – Waterfront Engineers, LLC

Mellor reviewed the project and explained the state agencies involved. He used a PowerPoint presentation to show photographs and maps. Historic and archaeological resources will be reviewed. The Sawyer Woolen Mills are on the National Registry of Historic Places.

#### B. Steve Haight, PE - Haight Engineering

Haight reviewed the hydrology and hydraulics of the watershed and discussed river flows.

#### C. Danna Truslow, PG – Truslow Resource Consulting

Truslow reviewed existing conditions in the three impoundment areas. Sediments in the river were sampled for five contaminants. A risk assessment was conducted. Post dam removal changes were studied.

### 3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Hunt: What is the timeline for completion?

Mellor: It is dependent on funding and finding grant money. Probably 2 or 3 years.

Joyce: Confirmed that a Natural Heritage Bureau is required.

Houle: Would sediment in the river be allowed to flush downstream and would that impact oyster beds?

Truslow: There would be a temporary increase in sediment during dam removal, but there are no known oyster beds in the Bellamy River.

Quisumbing-King: Will there be any post removal evaluation of impacts?

Truslow: That remains to be determined, but there could be some monitoring done.

Bill Jacobsmeyer: I own property at 40 Cataract Avenue and have seen a change in the river channel causing the eroding of the riverbank along my property. There are many beaver dams so what will prevent the beavers from causing a backup of the river? Will there be any effort to clean up the trash



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and tires that have been exposed since the water level has gone down? Will the new land be developable? The pond that was behind the house is now gone.

Mellor: Once the dam is removed the water level will drop and erosion should decrease. Fish & Game has list of beaver trappers if it becomes a problem. You should check your deed to see if you own to the riverbank or beyond.

Bird: We received a letter from Bruton & Berube, PLLC who represent Mary Joyce Gauthier and Ferne Johnson of Durham Road, and they want to provide their input at any future public hearings and get a copy of the study.

Mellor reviewed the next steps and indicated that once the study is finalized an application will be filed and the Conservation Commission will be involved in the review. A public hearing will be held.

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

*Quisumbing-King motioned to adjourn at 7:05 PM. Joyce seconded. Vote: Unanimous*