



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Second Floor Conference Room - 288 Central Avenue Dover NH
Meeting Date: Monday, March 10, 2014
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Marcia Gasses (Vice Chair), Cora Quisumbing-King, Kris Houle, Kevin Perron, Richard Erickson, Michael Joyce

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird (City Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilor Jason Gagnon, Mark West, Kevin McEneaney

The meeting was convened by Hunt at 5:32 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Quisumbing-King moved to approve the February 10, 2014 minutes, Perron seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Houle moved to approve the March 3, 2014 minutes, Joyce seconded. Vote: 5 in favor, 2 abstentions (Perron & Erickson)

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion regarding disc golf proposal for Cassily property, Assessor's Map 34, Lots 20B & 21.

Hunt asked Bird to update members on anything that has happened since the previous meeting.

Bird: I met with Dennis Grzywacz, of the disc golf club, on March 5th to discuss the concept plan and review the comments from members at the last two meetings and the abutter comments. Dennis agreed to work on a revised concept plan to bring back to the members. This may be ready for the April meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. NHDES Wetlands Permit and City of Dover Conditional Use Permit for McEneaney Survey Associates, Inc. (Owners: Elbert Kelley Jr., Kevin Kelley, & Jerry Kelley), Assessor's Map 8, Lot 46, zoned R-20, located at 31 Wentworth Terrace.

Kevin McEneaney and Mark West of West Environmental, Inc. were present to explain the proposal to replace an existing stone retaining wall with a new dry stone retaining wall, within the Conservation District adjacent to the tidal Piscataqua River. The proposed retaining wall is 379 sq. ft. and the area of fill behind the wall is 1,358 sq. ft. An existing garage and shed is to be removed and a new garage (360 sq. ft.) is to be built. The owner changed the garage location and reduced the size. The driveway is gravel and the garage is 18' x 18' so the impervious impact is less.

West: There is a drip infiltrator for the garage to catch runoff.

Houle: Didn't we ask for a dewatering plan and planting plan at the last meeting?

West: I think that was for the other Wentworth Terrace application, but we could use a silt bag to dewater.

Houle: I don't want to see erosion entering the resource.

Bird: What is the plan for the discontinued portion of the driveway?

McEneaney: It will be loamed and seeded. We can add a note to the plan.

Quisumbing-King: At the last meeting we were worried about impacts to trees.

McEneaney: The new location of the garage will not require any tree removal or tree root impact.

Hunt: Is the garage in the same location as the previous plan?

McEneaney: No this new location is closer to the river, but it is smaller.



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Houle: What kind of plants are in the area that you will have to excavate?

West: It is mostly seaweed with some sea grass in that area.

Houle: I would like to see a plan for revegetating any disturbed area below the high tide line.

Gasses made a motion to endorse the NHDES Wetlands Permit application and the City of Dover Conditional Use Permit with the conditions that a dewatering system is installed, the discontinued driveway area be loamed and seeded, and any disturbed area below the high tide will be revegetated per a planting schedule, Perron seconded. Vote: Unanimous

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Information on Proposal from Tender Crop Farm (Owner of Tuttle Farm) for Conversion of up to 50 Acres of Forest to Farmland

Bird reviewed a proposal by the owners for converting up to 50 acres of forest to active farmland consisting of crops, fruit orchards and cattle grazing. He met with Tyler Matteson, Strafford Rivers Conservancy representatives, NHDOT representatives, Army Corps of Engineers representatives and Anna Boudreau on February 20th to discuss the proposal. The City is the primary easement holder and SRC and NHDOT hold an executory interest in the property. They are planning to present the proposal to all the state and federal resource agencies at a meeting on March 19th. The Forestry Management Plan will likely have to be reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission. They are having a wetlands delineation done to get more accurate information. They have stated that their goal is to do the timber harvest so that no additional permitting is required.

Gagnon: Do you know if they are an organic farm?

Bird: I don't think so.

Gagnon: With the EPA permit issue, the potential impact of cattle use on the nitrogen levels could be an issue.

Hunt: Were the wetlands delineated in the original study?

Bird: The wetlands were delineated by VHB as part of the original assessment and it showed quite a bit of wetlands, but it was not based on an on-site assessment.

B. Review of Correspondence Received

- i. Letter dated 2/11/14 from NHDES to DR Lemieux Builders, Inc. regarding a request for more information for Spur Road application

Bird: NHDES is requesting more information from the applicant.

Houle asked Bird to send the letter out by e-mail.

- ii. Annual Report received from Strafford County Conservation District

Bird passed around the annual report.

- iii. Newsletter from the Strafford Rivers Conservancy

Bird passed around the newsletter.



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5. OTHER BUSINESS

Hunt reported that Bird had e-mailed the Washington Highlands HOA to see if they were ready for tonight's meeting but did not get a reply.

Bird: We talked about doing another easement monitoring visit when the snow melts, which would good for members that have not walked the property. It would good to have the plan before that.

Hunt: The Saving Special Places conference is coming up on April 5th so please let us know if you want to attend.

Bird: I would need to know by March 21st so please contact me by then.

Quisumbing-King: When will we be doing another joint meeting with the Open Lands Committee?

Hunt: That is a good idea, but let's see how the next agenda looks.

Bird: I will coordinate with the two chairs.

Quisumbing-King: What happened with our discussion on accomplishing our master plan goals?

Bird: We had started developing a list of city parcels for preparing a plan to recommend additional land protection levels and future uses. Gasses and I met to whittle down the list and I need to follow up with Community Services to make sure that some of the parcels are not needed for water resource protection purposes. We can get that project going again.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Quisumbing-King: motioned to adjourn at 6:30 PM. Houle seconded. Vote: Unanimous