



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Special Meeting
Meeting Location: Second Floor Conference Room - 288 Central Avenue Dover NH
Meeting Date: Monday, August 25, 2014
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Cora Quisumbing-King, Richard Erickson, Kevin Perron, Nicole Andrews (Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird (City Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: Tyler Matteson, Ronald Fenerty

The meeting was convened by Hunt at 5:33 PM.

1. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Quisumbing-King moved to approve the August 11, 2014 minutes, Peron seconded. Vote: Unanimous

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Request for Approval of a Forest Management Plan for Timber Harvest on Conservation Easement Lots – Tender Crop Farms, Dover Point Road, Assessor's Map L, Lot 1; Map M, Lots 52, 53-A, and 54. Conservation easement (98.8 acres) obtained in 2006 and 2007, held by City of Dover Conservation Commission, Strafford Rivers Conservancy and NH Department of Transportation

Tyler Matteson presented the revised harvest map showing the wetlands buffers on the Middle Road parcel.

Hunt: The issues that we discussed at the last meeting included doing an inspection at the 50% point of the harvest with two Conservation Commission members and Bird and requiring that the licensed forester provide written reports on the forestry activities to Bird on a weekly basis.

Quisumbing-King: What about water quality baseline testing?

Andrews: I think there should be some baseline sampling done given our concerns with water quality in Great Bay. Some monitoring after the cattle are on the property should be done.

Quisumbing-King: I think it is important to get some baseline data.

Hunt: In regards to the NRCS issues discussed last time, I spoke with folks from NRCS and they are following their process required under their rules.

Matteson: The agricultural plan is on file since the last meeting and the land conversion form has been filed. Sue Knight visited the property last week.

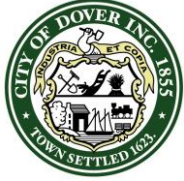
Discussions ensued on the merits of water quality testing.

Matteson: The problem is that many factors contribute to water quality results, most of which may not be associated with our property, but may be within the watershed. We would need to do months of testing to create a baseline and that would be expensive. The requirement seems a bit onerous.

Quisumbing-King: To what extent can BMP's guarantee that there will not be an impact on water quality?

Matteson: The plants will help to capture some of the nitrogen. What would you test for? We don't know or control what our neighbors might be contributing.

Bird: When I spoke with Dean Peschel, the City environmental consultant, he did not recommend requiring the water quality testing for a variety of reasons. He felt that you could achieve the same result with adequate use of best management practices.



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Erickson pointed out that Peschel's comments were included in the August 4th letter from Tendercrop Farms.

Bird: After that conversation with Peschel, I did pursue the issue any further so I don't know what you would require in terms of testing locations or protocol.

Hunt: I would entertain a motion to either include or not include water quality testing and then we can make a motion for the rest of it.

Andrews: I guess if you a trusted professional giving us a recommendation we should listen and there are some questions about the validity of the data.

Hunt: It seems that the consensus is that testing would not be required. We would like to see the 50% timber harvest inspection and the weekly reports from the forester.

Bird: I just want to remind you that the Strafford Rivers Conservancy has submitted a letter supporting the harvest plan.

Hunt confirmed that the members of the audience had no comment or question.

Perron: We should do monitoring at the 50% point.

Erickson made a motion to approve the Forest Management Plan and Agriculture Plan with two conditions:

1. That an inspection be conducted at the 50% point of the harvest with two Conservation Commission members and Bird; and
2. Requiring that the licensed forester provide written reports on the forestry activities to Bird on a weekly basis.

Perron seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passes 5-0.

Matteson: What do you want in the report?

Bird: I envision a weekly e-mail with a description of the work completed and any issues that may come up.

Matteson: I thing including a map marked up showing the areas harvested would be helpful.

Erickson: We should communicate our decision to NHDOT and SRC so they know.

Bird : I will be doing that shortly.

3. NEW BUSINESS NONE

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR NONE

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Perron asked Bird to see if he had an updated parking permit.

Quisumbing-King confirmed that we have not heard anything new from the disc golf club.

Erickson asked for the NHACC membership issue be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Quisumbing-King motioned to adjourn at 6:40 PM. Erickson seconded. Vote: Unanimous