



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 288 Central Avenue
Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2015
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Cora Quisumbing-King, Richard Erickson (5:42), Tristan Donovan, Michael Joyce

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird (City Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: Janet Gross, Suzi Strange, Chris Wyskiel, Ron Hebert, Chris Berry

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

1. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Quisumbing-King moved to approve the September 14, 2015 minutes, Joyce seconded. Vote: 4-0

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Review of Revised Conservation Land Management Plan with Representatives from Washington Highlands Homeowners Association/Morrison Lane

Chris Wyskiel: We are here again looking for you to endorse our plan, which has been endorsed at our recent annual meeting.

Quisumbing-King: Have you captured our discussions from the last meeting?

Wyskiel: I think that we have in the revised plan you received. I did submit an additional letter today addressing the issue of if the West letter needed to have his wetland seal. That is not an issue anymore.

Strange: The plan has been approved previously by the board of directors and we have been making adjustment to address your concerns.

Hunt: I want to let Ron Hebert speak on this so let's move onto the next agenda item and we can come back after.

- B. Comments from Ron Hebert on Revised Conservation Land Management Plan for Washington Highlands Homeowners Association

Herbert: I have some handouts.

Hebert distributed a letter outlining his concerns (see file). The letter was read by Hebert.

Hebert: Mr. West took pictures of purple loosestrife but never mentioned it in his letters. I have information here from the US Army Corps of Engineers on invasive species.

Quisumbing-King: What is the main thrust of your concerns?

Hebert: My main concern is the second mowing in the fall and the spread of purple loosestrife that will be caused by that mowing. Two mowing's are a waste. If I have to I will go up further on this. I know you will approve the plans tonight.

Hunt: Are you in favor of just one mowing?

Hebert: Only if one mowing was done properly.

Erickson: Maybe the mowing will help to control the spread of other invasive species.

Hunt: Thank you for your comments. Let's bring it back to a commission discussion.

Quisumbing-King: How would we know the difference between one and two mowing's? Has it always been mowed twice a year?

Hunt: Historically it has been mowed once a year before it was developed.



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Hebert: I gave you all information indicating that for a few years it was mowed only once. No harm was done.

Joyce: Their plan does not need to address invasive species management. We made good progress at the last meeting.

Bird: Although a management plan is not required by the easement deed, the city recommended that one be prepared so that the decisions being made on managing the open space was based on a more scientific basis.

Hunt: My suggestion would be that the plan be reviewed in one year to see how things are working.

Joyce: We would pick up on issues during our normal easement monitoring.

Hunt: The chair is open for a motion.

Joyce made a motion to accept the management plan dated September 26, 2015, as submitted, with the condition that the Board of Directors return in one year with an update on the status of the plan. Donovan seconded the motion.

Hunt: Is there any discussion on the motion?

Quisumbing-King: It would nice if there was some data to back up the report, not just one person's opinion.

Strange: Can I speak? There has been only one person that has had a concern. We represent the majority of the residents.

Hunt: I would be satisfied with a one page summary next year. I don't want to have to go through all this again.

Vote: 5 to 0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. NHDES Wetlands Permit and City of Dover Conditional Use Permit for Mark and Suzanne Jones (Agent: Chris Berry), Assessor's Map 11, Lot 14, located on Arch Street. Proposal is for a 13 lot Open Space Subdivision with a wetland impact of 250 sq. ft. and a 50-foot wetland buffer impact of 8,026 sq. ft.

Berry was present to explain the proposal. It is a 12 acre parcel with one access point. We did a site walk on this since the last meeting. The OSS plan eliminates the major wetland crossing required by a conventional subdivision. There are wetland and buffer impacts. 250 square feet of wetlands impact and 8,026 square feet of buffer impact. We are trying to reduce impacts to abutters. We have prepared the CUP permit application and the State Wetlands Permit application. The wetland fill is for access to uplands not for development, which is different under wetland rules. We would ask that you endorse the applications and allow the Chair to sign the application for expedited review.

Hunt: Three members and Bird attended the site walk. Do any of you have any questions or comments as result of going on the walk?

Donovan: I have none.

Hunt confirmed that the wetland impact in near the first curve in the road.

Bird: The total wetland and wetland buffer impact is fairly small compared to other projects.

Donovan made a motion to endorse the CUP application and the NHDES application as presented, Joyce seconded. Vote: 5-0.

- B. Request for expenditures from the Conservation Fund for:

1. Cassily Parcel Field Mowing by Bob Sherwood Landscape Co. - \$585
2. OLC Conservation Easement Appraisal – not to exceed \$4,500



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Bird explained that the Conservation Fund is used to pay for the twice annually field mowing on the Cassily Field that is off Whittier Street. The community Trail runs through the property. The easement appraisal is for a project that has required a third appraisal due to the significant difference between the owners and the city's appraisals.

Quisumbing-King: The OLC Chair would like to attend one of our meetings to explain the conservation easement process and be available to answer any questions we may have.

Quisumbing-King made a motion to approve an expenditure from the Conservation Fund for \$585 to cover the Cassily field mowing, Erickson seconded. Vote: 5-0.

Donovan made a motion to approve an expenditure from the Conservation Fund not to exceed \$4,500 for an appraisal for a conservation easement, Joyce seconded. Vote: 5-0.

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Review of Correspondence Received From NH Department of Environmental Services

Bird reviewed the following letters from the DES Wetlands Bureau:

1. Notice of invalid permit by notification from NHDES for Wentworth Douglass Hospital at 789 Central Avenue.
2. Response to request for more information from NHDES for dock for Justin Webber at 254A Dover Point Road.
3. Abutter notification of wetlands permit application for Whittier Street Bridge over the Cochecho River on behalf of the City of Dover.

B. Discussion on Planning Board Land Use Board Meet and Greet – November 10, 2015 at McConnell Center Cafeteria

Bird distributed the agenda for the meeting and explained that the meeting is an opportunity to meet folks from other groups and find out what issues they are working on. If members would like to attend please rsvp Elena Piekut in the Planning Department by November 2nd.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

Bird passed around a flyer about a workshop on forest laws for municipal officials on 11/9/15 in Auburn.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Quisumbing-King moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm, Erickson seconded. Vote: Unanimous