



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: **1st Floor Conference Room** - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: Monday, December 10, 2018
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Tristan Donovan (Vice Chair), Robert Atwood, Richard Erickson, Abby Lyon, Amy Kramer Perry, Steve Fellows, Jason Aube (Alternate), Zach Schmidt (Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird (City Planner); John Storer (Community Services Director)

OTHERS PRESENT: Marcia Gasses (City Council Liaison), Ashley Rowe, Andy Fast

1. The meeting was convened at 5:30 PM and a roll call was done.

2. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – November 13, 2018

Donovan moved to approve the November 13, 2018 minutes, Erickson seconded. Vote: 7 in favor, Fellows and Kramer-Perry abstaining

3. OLD BUSINESS:

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. City of Dover Conditional Use Permit for Tedeschi Contracting, LLC, Assessor's Map A, Lot 52-D, zoned R-40, located at 11 Sandy Lane.

Ashley Rowe of Norway Plains Associates was present to explain the proposal for the replacement of a failed septic system with a new septic system 37 feet from a wetland, where 75 feet is required. There is no location on the lot that would meet the setback requirements. We did two test pits and the one in the back had a high water table and the one in the front had better depth. We worked with DES on the best location.

Bird: This needs a CUP because the septic system can't meet the 75 foot setback requirement.

Kramer-Perry confirmed that city sewer is not close enough to be an option.

Donovan: Is there any advantage with using the Envirofin system?

Rowe: Using it here due to the limited area available. It is about half the size of a conventional septic system.

Schmidt: What is the anticipated life expectancy of the system?

Rowe: It is hard to estimate but not as long as a standard stone system.

There was a discussion about this being the only viable location due to the high water table and wetlands. Discussed the discontinuance of the dug well and the connection to the municipal water line.

Donovan made a motion to endorse the Conditional Use Permit with the condition that the municipal water line be constructed as shown on the plan, Fellows seconded. Vote: 7 in favor

- B. Discussion on Forest Management of City-owned Parcels with John Storer (Community Services Director) and Andy Fast (Strafford County Forester)

Storer stated that the City wants to look at preparing forest management plans for various City-owned parcels. Dean Peschel had worked with a forester, Charlie Moreno, 10 or 15 years ago on some city parcels. There is no plan for the urban trees. Would like to develop forest management plans for city parcels and street trees.

Fast: I am the Strafford and Belknap County Forester through the UNH Cooperative Extension Service. There is a role for harvesting forests as part of a management plan. Need to develop goals and objectives for each parcel. Need to assess each parcel for the natural resources that exist and compare the resources to the objectives. The management plan process works for long term sustainability. We did a survey of forests in NH communities. We used a 10 acre minimum size.

Gasses: We could use the Conservation Commission to help prioritize which parcels should be done first.

Fast: Management plans can be expensive, some at \$30 per acre. Invasive species are an issue.

The consensus was that the Conservation Commission could act as a sounding board for the effort.



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Fellows volunteered to lead the effort.

Discussed funding opportunities for forest management.

Hunt: We will form a sub-committee so think about it and be ready to volunteer at the January meeting.

C. Vote on request for expenditure from the Conservation Fund for:

1. Cassily Parcels Field Mowing on 9/4/18 by Bob Sherwood Landscape Co. - \$600

Bird explained that the City hires Sherwood Landscaping to mow the fields twice a year at the City-owned Cassily property. We pay for it out of the Conservation Fund, which has a balance of about \$328,000.

Donovan made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$600 as requested, Erickson seconded. Vote: 7 in favor

5. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

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

- DES Wetlands Permit to Brickyard Estates Dock Owners at 10 Brickyard Drive.
- DES Wetlands Council letter to William Davis of 409 Dover Point Road regarding his appeal of a permit issued for a dock at 407 Dover Point Road and his appeal to DES Wetlands Council.

B. Report on Joint Meeting with Dover Open Lands Committee and Amanda Stone of UNH Cooperative Extension for presentation on updated Coastal Conservation Plan held on 12/6/18

Bird stated that Amanda Stone and Lisa Wise updated Commission and OLC members on the updated Coastal Conservation plan. Erickson and Aube attended. Bird displayed maps and passed out a handout.

Aube: We could use the maps to help make more informed recommendations on applications before us.

C. Update on the Status of the Dover Conservation Fund

Bird stated that Fellows had asked that this item be added to the agenda. The fund is financed by landowners that pay a 10% penalty when their land is removed from the Current Use program. The money is used for the protection of conserved land by paying for appraisals, surveys and payments to landowners for conservation easement. Originally 100% of the penalty money went into the Conservation Fund but in 2011 the City Council changed it so that the first \$75,000 of income was diverted to the general fund to pay for a planner position. This year the OLC asked the Planning Department to add a funding request for conservation of land into the CIP. This is a result of a recommendation from the Climate Adaptation Chapter of the master plan. The City Council approved a CIP that includes \$250,000 a year with most of that funding coming from the new Transfer of Development Right fee for residential development that allows for higher density in return for payments to the Conservation Fund.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Report on NH Association of Conservation Commission Annual Meeting and Conference

Fellows reviewed his thoughts on the value of attending and urged other to attend in the future.

Bird notified members that the Land Use Board Meet & Greet has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th at 5:30 pm in the McConnell Center cafeteria. Hunt will provide an update on what you have been doing this past year.

Lyon: DES is holding hearings on the proposed amendments to the wetland rules. You can provide comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.