Approved Minutes

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
January 8, 2015
7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Drew Kiefaber (Chair), Jeff Goldknopf (Vice Chair), Andrea Frey, Toni Weinstein (Town Council Rep), and John Brackett (Planning Board Rep)

Members Absent: Bruce Fecteau *excused*, Fred Pearson *excused*, Bob Gazda (Alternate) excused, and Jessica Veysey-Powell (Alternate) *excused*

Called to Order: 7:27 PM

Agenda Items:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

1. The Chair requested that the CC move forward in the agenda to Old/New Business so that the representatives from Wright-Pierce be allowed to speak early in the meeting. There were no objections.
2. Old/New Business

*Wright-Pierce Wetlands Permit*: Ross Tsantoulis, Project Engineer, and Dave Romilly, Lead Engineer, from Wright-Pierce (W-P) made a presentation of the project related to the work to be completed at the Newmarket Waste-Water Treatment Plant. They came before the CC to seek approval of an expedited wetlands permit. **Jeffrey** **Goldknopf** and **John** **Brackett** went on a site walk on December 31, 2014 along with both Ross Tsantoulis, PE, and Mike Curry from Wright-Pierce. The project was previously presented to the Town Council. Wright-Pierce staff explained the reason for the work, the general scope of the project and approximate locations of the proposed structures. They explained that they are applying for three permits (shoreland, wetland and alteration of terrain [AOT]) and the wetland permit will be of minimum impact – expedited because the impacts are less than 3,000 square feet total, there are no impacts to prime wetlands, no work within 50 feet of salt water marsh, and they have been coordinating with the NH Natural Heritage Bureau to avoid impacts to species of concern W-P received approval from NHNHB on December 31, 2014 to go forward. W-P has also met to discuss this project with Ridge Mauck of the NH Alteration of Terrain Bureau (AOT). There will be some landscaping included in the project and they will be using a silt sock as sediment control. They will also include a treatment swale to mitigate the runoff to the Lamprey River. Since the NHDES is classifying this permit request as ‘expedited’, they

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will have 30 days to review the permit. There were some clarifying questions by the commission members followed by discussion. Based on the site visit and engineers explanation of the added drainage swale, the commission felt that the limited permanent impact to the existing wetland would be acceptable. Wright-Pierce had reconfigured the driveway to lessen the wetlands impact to the fullest extent possible as the result of discussions with the DES. The commission asked that the stability of the slope at the point where the swale empties out down a riprap slope to the Lamprey River be adequately stabilized.

**ACTION**

 Motion **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the Conservation Commission has reviewed this application and waives the right to intervene per RSA 482-A:11. Further, the CC believes that the application and plans submitted accurately represent the proposed project and the Commission has no objection to permitting the proposed work.

 Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 4-0

After all copies are signed by the CC Chair, they will be taken by **Jeff** **Goldknopf** to the Town Clerk for signature. Wright-Pierce will retrieve the signed copies from the Town Office to submit to NHDES. Construction is expected to begin in April or May, 2015. W-P has two years to complete the work.

1. Approval of Minutes

*March 13, 2014:*

**ACTION**

 Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of March 13, 2014

 be approved as drafted.

 Second: **Andrea** **Frey**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 4-0

*December 11, 2014*:

**ACTION**

 Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of December 14, 2014

 be approved as drafted.

 Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 4-0

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1. Treasurer’s Report

The Chair received an email from **Eric Wigode** earlier in the day indicating his intention to resign from the Conservation Commission. A new Treasurer will be selected at the next meeting when more members are in attendance. The Chair wished to thank Eric for his valuable service to the community while serving on the Conservation Commission. Eric accomplished many great things while serving on the Commission and we are all sad to see him resign.

1. Committee and Subcommittee Reports

**Toni** **Weinstein** (Town Council Rep) reported that, because of recent power outages, PSNH would like to do tree cutting work on several roads in Newmarket including Ash Swamp, Grant, and Bay Road. Because Bay Road is designated by the town as a ‘scenic road’, the Town must hold a public hearing which has been scheduled for January 21. She recommends that members drive out and look at the proposed trees to be cut – they are clearly designated with blue and white ties. She also wanted to remind everyone of the Deliberative Session on Saturday, January 31, at the Jr/Sr High School. The town budget session will begin at 9:00 am and the school budget session will begin at 11:00 am.

**Toni** **Weinstein** reported that during the Phase I survey for the MacIntosh Well site archeological material was found. This material “could/might” be considered important and it was described as “pre-contact material”. Because of this finding, a Phase II study would be required and add cost to the project. The Town Council decided to avoid the problem by moving the easement. **Drew** **Kiefaber** mentioned that this work does not come under the purview of the Commission. **Jeff** **Goldknopf** added that, if the change in location of the easement should affect the location of the prime wetlands crossing, the town may have to reapply for their wetlands permit.

**John** **Brackett** (Planning Board Rep) had nothing new to report.

1. Chairman’s Report

*Letter from the Southeast Land Trust of NH:* The CC received a letter from SELTNH regarding the completed report for 2014 for the Hilton Conservation Easement. The property appears as it has in the past and they noticed no changes.

*Three Letters Received from NHDES:* 1) The NHDES has informed the CC that the tidal dock reconstruction at 17 Moody Point has been approved for Mr. Melvin Prostokoff. 2) Mr. Prostokoff received a request for additional information about the proposed rebuild of the garage at 17 Moody Point. 3) After providing additional information, Mr. Prostokoff received a letter stating that the permit had been approved on December 30, 2014.

*SELTNH Quarterly Newsletter Received*: <http://seltnh.org/index.php/news-and-events/newsletter>

1. Old/New Business (continued)

*Composters:* The Chair would like to delay this discussion until the next meeting.

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*Hats and Shirts:* There are still a few shirts and hats available. If members would like one, they should speak with the Chair.

*Easement Monitoring Update*:

*Silverman-Schneer* –Completed

*Piscassic River/Loiselle* – Completed by **Bruce** **Fecteau** on Oct. 18. He was unable to attend the meeting this evening, but the Chair will contact him for the final report.

*Audubon/Smith Sisters­ –* Completed by**Drew** **Kiefaber** on Oct. 25.

*Wiggin Farm* – Completed on Nov. 3 by **Toni** **Weinstein**, **Drew** **Kiefaber**, and Tracey Boisvert, the NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program Director

*New Roots Farm* – **Drew** **Kiefaber** completed the report after the easement walk on December 14 with **Andrea** **Frey** and **John** **Brackett**. Everything seemed to be in order. **Andrea** **Frey** mentioned the possibility of hiring a surveyor to mark the boundary of the easement. The Chair pointed out that this is a condition of the agreement, but further information and discussion is needed.

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** sent a letter to NHDES about the 17 Moody Point Drive permit request reporting the two concerns expressed by the CC. He was pleased to report that the CC concerns were considered by the NHDES before approving the permit.

**Jeff** **Goldknopf** also contacted the planning department and the town clerk requesting that they share with the Commission any plans that are submitted to their office thereby giving the CC an opportunity to comment on them even if that may not officially require the CC to review and approve. At the next meeting, the CC will discuss whether the members wish to see subsurface applications (primarily septic systems) even though we are not required to approve them and would in no way delay their approval by appropriate entities.

1. Adjournment

**ACTION**

 Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved that the meeting be adjourned.

 Second: **Andrea Frey**

 Vote: Approved unanimously 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick
Recording Secretary