

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 11, 2016
DRAFT MINUTES**

Call to Order:

Chair Carlos Guindon called the session to order at 7:03 pm.

1. Introduction of Members Present:

Present were Todd Piskovitz, Anne Surman, Selectmen's Representative, Virginia Raub, Clerk, Carlos Guindon, Chair, Bill Campbell, Vice Chair, Andrew Koff, Treasurer, and David O'Hearn (new member). The Chair thanked outgoing member Don Briselden for his strong participation and contributions.

Also present were staff members Kristen Murphy, Natural Resources Planner, and David Pancoast, Recording Secretary. Selectman Don Clement was present as well. Applicants, consultants and members of the public were also present.

2. Public Comment: There was none.

Action Items:

1. Standard Dredge and Fill Wetland Application for the upgrading of the wastewater treatment facility, main pump station, and force mains (Town of Exeter, Department of Public Works)

Mr. Prebble and Mr. Morrell, of Wright Pearce Engineering presented with a wastewater improvement project overview. Exeter and Squamscott Rivers outlet into Great Bay. NPDES WWTF Permit (2012) is the driving force here. Plant couldn't meet the requirements, so an Administrative Consent Order was entered into in 2013. Nitrogen loading will be reduced, design to be completed by Dec 2016, so can go to bid in February 2017. Majority of facility construction work to be completed by March 2019. A stormwater pond will be part of the project, to be sited in an existing lagoon. The project will be split into 3 parts with 3 construction contracts: new treatment facility, force main replacement component and new main pump station on existing foundation, same footprint, with a grinder. The Fire Dept. wanted access off Swasey Parkway, so doing that using reinforced turf with concrete blocks seeded over like lawn, with a temporary entrance down below. There are other utilities involved where piping has to go, gas mains etc. Mr. Guindon asked if any large trees are coming down as a result of this work. Mr. Prebble said one or two might have to come down at the temporary entrance. Mr. Campbell asked if the two new force main pipes replacing the existing one would alleviate the past problems. Mr. Prebble said that the whole project is meant to resolve the existing problems. The main station will pump 9 million gals/day and if they added a third pump, it would be 10 million.

Along the force main route there is an extensive area within tidal buffer zones that can't be avoided. There will be construction disturbance, all to be restored afterward. There is also a marshy area next to the river. Prime wetlands buffer zone falls along the centerline of the road in that area. Norris Brook crossing is needed and they have looked at a directional drill under the brook, with two pits on either side—but it's expensive. They have done a stream flow plan. There will be coffer dams and dewatering into a temporary settling basin at least 50 ft. from the brook, built with temporary hay bales lined with siltation cloth and stone. The work will be restored afterward—both stream banks and buffer zone areas.

Mr. Campbell asked if the stormwater pond would be at the same level as currently. Mr. Prebble said it will slope down from the buildings area. There will still be access for birders, with limited fencing. Wetlands impacts:

Temporary: 2,195 sq. ft.; permanent: 740 sq. ft. Tidal buffer impacts: 32,570 sq. ft. (along the force main corridor). Prime wetlands areas: none. Shore land impacts: new impervious impacts: main pump station: none, new facility: 55,800 sq. ft. /73,050sq ft. Total disturbance within 250'/300' will occur.

Fish and Game ("F & G") Concerns:

Three species threatened: spotted turtle, black racer and one plant. F & G concern was over entanglement/entrapment, so sumpless catch basins will be used. Erosion control will all be biodegradable, with no synthetics. The stormwater plan is unique: enclosed drainage systems, no new discharges to Squamscott River, runoff directed to southeast area of site to a combination fire pond/stormwater pond at Lagoon 3. There will be sediment fore bays and dry hydrant fire protection. They will utilize other lagoons for peak flow storage.

Snow storage to a dedicated area was discussed. Snow melt will drain into the system. The rate of 3 mg/l of nitrogen was discussed. This construction must satisfy the 8 mg/l level, and this facility will treat at least to 5 mg and possibly 4. Evaluation of the river monitoring will be ongoing. It is unknown whether Exeter will have to go to a level 3 at some point.

There was discussion on the new form for motions. The Chair went over the three alternatives. Mr. Campbell asked if anyone had any concerns. He moved that the Commission report it had no objections to the issuance of this permit. Ms. Surman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Snowhounds Snowmobile Trail Permission Form

Ms. Murphy said this request comes annually, for permission to use existing trails from Watson Land east and a private landowner to west. Formerly every 5 years, but last year the Commission wanted to do it annually. Chair asked if anyone needed more information. Ms. Murphy added that they clear brush when the ground is frozen so no

damage to any wetlands. Mr. Campbell said he thought it okay to go five years and moved that, seconded by Ms. Surman, and unanimously approved.

3. October 6th Site Walk for the Southern District YMCA proposal for use of Morrissette Property Tax Map 82/15 for outdoor education and a fitness trail/par course

The Commission sitewalk was held to what to do and where. Ms. Raub said that because of the sewer line on the property, should check with DPW. The YMCA has a sense of the Commission's issues and needs to decide what to do. Mr. Piskovitz said that there was discussion about what that. Ms. Murphy said a spot along the wooded sewer line that structures might work.

Mr. Campbell said "the camel's nose is in the tent," so other groups might want to do similar things. The Commission split the two proposals to keep them separate. He is not in favor of structures there, worried about opening it up, as it is hard to monitor. Ms. Raub agreed, saying it's hard to monitor for YMCA too. Mr. Piskovitz said it had told the Y it would listen, so it should listen to them in fairness. Ms. Raub agreed the Commission shouldn't move on a vote tonight. Ms. Surman said she was unsure why this should even go forward, this is a natural area and other sites in town have the amenities that the YMCA wants to put in place. Mr. Koff said that the sewer line is not a wilderness area. There is an access road that is maintained. There is potential for YMCA to be a really good partner here. That's great if they can be involved and helpful. If the Y had a real stake out there, with a modest course done tastefully along the sewer line, that minor impact is offset by additional stewardship. Not a great idea but shortsighted to just say no. YMCA wants to open additional trails there. Mr. Piskovitz said stewardship important and the YMCA could sponsor things like clean-ups. Mr. Campbell said the Commission should wait for YMCA to come back.

Don Clement spoke as a member of the public. He appealed to the Board to not allow this. The piece was preserved purposefully for a natural area. There is a sewer line access road but it is wet and activity would be in the wetlands. Henderson Swasey had gas lines and as it expanded it went from 50 ft. wide to 150 ft. wide, more and more impact resulted. Be careful of the expanding nature of trails. More trails have gone in. Just use the ones you have. If you are creating a lease agreement with YMCA to put structures in there. Might be bound to do it.

Mr. Guindon said the sitewalk was good for visualizing what the Y wants to do. Mr. Koff said a memorandum of understanding could be complicated. Mr. Guindon said the Commission would wait on any motion until it heard from the YMCA. Ms. Surman said liability issue is important there. Ms. Murphy will contact Town Counsel on this and Mr. Campbell will follow up with the YMCA on it.

4. Member Vacancy:

Mr. Piskovitz is in an alternate position and he is interested but there must be a vote and a recommendation to BOS on it. Ms. Raub moved it and Mr. Campbell seconded, on discussion it was noted that if Mr. Piskovitz gets appointed, there are three alternate positions open. The vote was unanimous.

5. Treasurers Report and End of Year Expenses:

Ms. Murphy said end of year expenses must be done now due to year end coming up, needs to know Commission's preferences. Items not done: mowing of fields, some membership fees, estimate for highest annual amount for Raynes Barn and costs for recording secretary. Mr. Campbell said about \$560 is left. Ms. Murphy said if the Commission changed its choices, could have more money available. Discussion on mowing was held, to allow ongoing openness at sites. Short window to getting mowing done annually. Same person has mowed in past.

Mr. Campbell asked about additional expenses? One is for bridge repairs, year-end annual meeting (11/12) costs @\$55 each, a training line item. Many topics area available to attend. Mr. Piskovitz said he would do it but can't commit tonight to do it. If can't decide by Friday, goes up to \$65 per person.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Property Management:

Ms. Murphy reported that property monitoring is needed, mostly walk-throughs, one got rained out last weekend. Mr. Campbell said that the landing area for logging right off the trail was quite bare, and in some areas weeds coming up and some growth from stumps too. Ms. Murphy added the trail goes through the farthest landing area, and walkers aren't sure where to go. Potential for erosion there. Some vegetation is seeding in right now. She added that in some sections walkers are using the new skidder trails, which they don't want. There was discussion use of stakes for marking this as non-use areas.

b. Trails: Overview of Trail Committee Meeting, Fall Repairs, Next Steps

Dave Short has been great at sending out files to Ms. Murphy, adding new trails onto the trail map. Some new trails are not on paper yet.

Other topics discussed at TCM were the timber harvest, evaluation of status of trails, use of forest funds and not wanting to lose interest of volunteers, as well as the need to build a bridge in the Oakland area, but funding is needed. Ms. Murphy said that she might be able to get a map done for the timber harvest area at a cost. The materials for the bridge work is estimated at \$714.26. There is a bridge work day this Saturday. One group offered to provide up to \$4500. If the ConCom can't cover any of it, Mr. Jim Clark said he would cover the balance. Mr. Campbell said

the Commission should encourage the enthusiasm. Pick up the \$500 and have the volunteer group pick up rest of it. He moved \$500 for work on the Oakland Bridge, seconded by Ms. Surman and it was unanimously approved.

There was discussion on mowing and frequency. Mr. Raub said she needs money for the Pumpkin Festival-the portapotty is \$100 and she may have to buy some pumpkins. Donation of some pumpkins was offered but only if the donors has them. If didn't mow one property, that amount would cover the Pumpkin Festival.

Dan Dwyer of NE Mountain Biking Group was present and said they want to use their own money and might be able to commit NEMBA funding for the bridge.

Motion to do bridge work was amended by Mr. Campbell to "up to" \$500, amended second by Ms. Surman and it was unanimously re-approved. Irvine mowing cost is \$400. Discussion on the bridge costs was held, with a general discussion on other expenditures.

Mr. Campbell moved up to \$200 for the Raynes Pumpkin Festival. Discussion on what was covered was held. Ms. Raub said she was hoping for 100 cars over 3 hours. No fee will be charged. Ms. Murphy said that a vote to use part of the Conservation Fund was required. After discussion Mr. Koff moved up to \$300 for the Pumpkin Festival, seconded by Mr. Campbell and it was unanimously approved.

c. Outreach: Complete Streets Initiative, Raynes Farm Pumpkin Festival, River Clean Up, Trail Work Day Oct 15th

Complete streets is 10/22 next Saturday, with interpretive table and other amenities. It will be 10 am to 4 pm. Chamber is doing a raffle of a dinner. DPW doing painting, so not much effort involved. Getting lots of interest from other Communities.

River Cleanup: Chair did not see a lot of material on his walk after the last rain.

7. Approval of Minutes: September 20, 2016:

The draft was discussed and Mr. Campbell moved approval as amended and corrected, seconded by Ms. Surman and unanimously approved.

8. Correspondence:

Letter from Southeast Land Trust asking for support of its work. Ms. Raub moved to continue \$100 contribution to the Southeast Land Trust, Mr. Campbell seconded, Mr.

Koff abstained and the vote was otherwise unanimously approved. Snowhounds letter as discussed earlier.

9. Other Business:

There was discussion on invasive management. Logging profits figure was discussed to use for the funding source.

There was discussion on the D'angostino project for 42 house lots, of interest to the Commission. Ms. Murphy has copy of the plans for review.

10. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled for Election Day (11/8/16), Submission Deadline (10/28/16) or move to Revised Date:

The session **date was moved to 11/15/16.**

[NOTE: The Recording Secretary has a conflict with that date, due to coverage of the ZBA session the same date and time.]

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business before the Commission, Ms. Surman moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Campbell, and the vote passed unanimously. The session adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Pancoast, Recording Secretary.