

Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes

8/14/18

Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members Present

Present at tonight's meeting were Lindsey White, Todd Piskovitz, Bill Campbell, Sally Ward, Ginny Raub, Don Clement, and Kristin Murphy. Ms. White acted as an alternate for this meeting and did not vote.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Action Items

1. Minimum Impact Expedited Wetland Application for Intersection Improvements to Continental Drive and Epping Road (Paul Vlasich-DPW, Greg Bakos-VHB)

Paul Vlasich, the town engineer, reminded the commission that in March, town voters had passed intersection improvements on Continental Drive. They are now trying to get a signal installed ASAP. VHB Engineers is the consultant helping with the analysis and design of project. It will be a 3-way intersection but allows the possibility of converting it to a 4-way should the future need arise. They hope to be in construction this year, and have the signals installed in late winter.

Greg Bakos, representing VHB Engineers, showed the location of the project on a map of the intersection of Continental Drive and Epping Road. Typical cross-sections show the planned widening of the road and the location of new turning lanes. They will be using rocks and guardrails to protect slopes. The wetlands are on the left, with an intermittent stream going underneath Epping Road. They will be filling in roughly along the property line where the stone wall is. The gray shading on the wetland impact map represents roadway widening. The red shading represents the wetland impacts area, where the brook goes underneath Epping Road and the road is being widened. They will be extending the outlet and inlets accordingly. The total impact area will be 685 square feet.

Ms. Ward asked for a summary of impact on Norris Brook. Mr. Bakos said he is not sure that the impacts would be quantifiable because the impact area is so small – they are not changing the path of the stream and will be vegetating all slopes. Lindsey Matras, the wetlands scientist for the project, said that they are not changing the hydrology for the stream, so it won't be an issue. Mr. Campbell had a concern about the rainfall due to the impervious surface. Mr. Bakos said that the rock surface will allow for infiltration into the subsoils. Right now, the runoff collects in grassy areas. They are adding some curbing because the town has indicated they may want to add a sidewalk in the future. The water along the curbing will go into a catch basin causing concentrated flow.

Mr. Piskovitz asked if they are changing any topography of the stream. Mr. Bakos said they are not – essentially, they are covering part of the brook. The size of the culverts will not be increased, because they are in good shape and do not flood. Building a larger culvert would be disruptive. Mr. Clement asked how the extension of the water/sewer lines would interact with that culvert. Mr. Vlasich

said that for the utility extension project through Epping Road, the culvert is represented on the design plans for that project and the lines will be going under the culvert. There will be no impact. Mr. Campbell asked if the adjacent private property will be getting more water on their land. Mr. Bakos said the change would be negligible. Mr. Vlasich said that this is the final design for the roadway at this time.

Mr. Piskovitz asked if there was anything to be done to improve the design of the catch basin. Mr. Bakos said that there are some types of containment that could be used, a deep sump could be used to make a difference to help protect the watershed. Mr. Piskovitz asked what the weight of their recommendation will be because this is a minimum impact permit. Ms. Murphy said that the permit will be processed more quickly with their recommendation.

MOTION: Mr. Piskovitz moved to sign the wetlands application under section 12, with the condition of deepening the catch basin to remove impurities. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Standard Dredge and Fill Wetland Application for the Addition of a Kayak Launch Structure on existing Town Dock (Greg Bisson-Parks & Rec)

Greg Bisson, the parks and rec director, said that they just replaced the town docks and they are looking to add on to it. The Exeter Areas Lions Club donated funds to purchase a kayak launch at Stuart Park. This allows for easier access into the river without having people actually get into the water. He said that he hopes that this will encourage people to explore the river more. Mr. Bisson said it will be installed after approval from DES and will likely be able to be used this season. Mr. Clement also suggesting considering reconstructing a kayak storage rack. Mr. Bisson also is considering offering kayak rentals.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved to approve the installation of the kayak launch as proposed. Mr. Piskovitz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. Raynes Farm Makers Fair Proposal (Ben Anderson)

Ms. Murphy outlined Mr. Anderson's plan. He is proposing to use the barn, with the different stalls, to have different craftspeople and artisans to set up in the barn and the field to have a mini-makers fair. He would lay plywood down on the barn floor so that it is uniform and is safe. This proposal would just be the commission giving permission to use the property.

The commission talked about the use agreement that was drafted. It has not yet been decided on by the Select Board. Mr. Clement said that the commission is authorized to have a conservation commission fund, which they are allowed to use for donations, fees, etc. He does not believe it requires Select Board permission for the commission to use that fund. He also suggested that the commission does not wait for the process to be reviewed.

Mr. Campbell suggested that the commission be involved some way in the event. He wondered how Mr. Anderson is charging for the event. Ms. Murphy said that there is probably going to be some kind of table fee. Mr. Campbell suggested having a fee for the use of the barn. Mr. Piskovitz agreed, but isn't sure how they would decide on that fee. The event will be October 19th or 20th, one week after the disc golf event.

Mr. Clement brought up the issue of parking. Mr. Campbell said that they would have to talk to Mr. Anderson about his plans, and they are also hoping to increase the amount of parking at Raynes Barn for the disc golf event. Ms. Ward also brought up the safe number of people who can be in the barn, which is 50 people at once.

MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to approve the use of Raynes Barn for this event. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Annual Review of By-Laws: Last review 7/11/17

Mr. Campbell would like to review the bylaws annually. He doesn't think there are too many changes to make, but wants to add a rule to not discuss major agenda items after a certain time at night (for example, 9:30 or 10PM). He would like to get people to volunteer to put effort into this. Ms. Ward and Mr. Piskovitz volunteered. Ms. Raub also wants to look at the Raynes Farm Stewardship Committee. Mr. Campbell will setup a time to meet and go over the bylaws.

5. Treasurers Report

Mr. Koff said that at the end of the last meeting, they approved a \$1,200 cost for an LCHIP application consultant. They will also keep a budget for mowing in mine. The expenditure of dues towards the ESRLAC need to be approved, which is about \$200. Mr. Piskovitz suggested paying \$150 to the ESRLAC, and \$50 towards LRWAC.

MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to expend \$150 for the dues for ESRLAC. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved to accept the treasurers report as presented. Mr. Piskovitz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

6. Committee Reports

a. Property Management

i. Mowing Proposals

There are few companies that the commission can review for mowing. The White, Perry, Irvine, and Morrisette fields all need to mowed. They can choose to mow half or all of Morrisette fields. They could not mow the field at all last year, so it is overgrown. Mr. Campbell said he would like to mow the entire field to clear brush out, and maybe mow half of it next time. Ms. Murphy said that she does not have a written quote from the Brush Crew.

Ms. Ward asked if the Brush Crew includes downed trees. Ms. Murphy confirmed it did. Ms. Raub pointed out that Brush Crew were selected last year, and they could not complete the mowing and did not reach out. Mr. Clement agreed, and also liked that Field of Dreams had broken out each property into separate quotes. Mr. Campbell said that Field of Dreams has also shown interest previously in improving the land, and also spelled out exactly what he would do on each property. If Field of Dreams were chosen, they'd have to move some funds around in their budget because the current budget for mowing is \$1,800. The Field of Dreams estimate is \$2,075 for the full mowing, and the Brush Crew estimate is \$1,450.

Ms. Murphy also said that previously, the commission had requested mowing to be as late as possible to preserve seed stock. David O’Hearn of Field of Dreams suggested mowing in September which allows some growth before winter and allows wildlife to eat October shoots. The commission agreed with this recommendation.

MOTION: Ms. Raub moved that Field of Dreams be contracted for a total of \$2,075 for Irvine, White, Perry, and Morrisette fields. Mr. Koff seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved to move \$125 from Conservation Land Admin. and \$150 from contract services to the roadside mowing. Mr. Piskovitz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ii. Henderson Swasey Invasive Plant Management

Mr. Guindon is absent, but Mr. Campbell said he requested volunteers to help pull invasive species from Henderson-Swasey. In the packet is a map of the property with invasive species marked with green dots, including openings. Ms. Raub suggested asking for help on their Facebook page as well as contacting people who had shown interest before. They need to set a date. Ms. Murphy also said that this would be a good project for interns to complete and reminded them that the commission needs more flagging supplies.

MOTION: Mr. Piskovitz moved to spend \$20 from conservation land admin. fund for flagging. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

iii. CC Property Monitoring

Property monitoring would entail walking the boundaries of the properties to see if anything needs attention or if anything has been dumped on the properties. Ms. Murphy had included a list of properties that need to be walked. The owner of the property should be contacted beforehand. Mr. Koff said that 80 Epping Road should be added to the list for monitoring. Mr. Campbell also said that Alyson Eberhardt had volunteered for the Allen Street property.

b. Trails

i. Oaklands Trail Re-alignment Update

Ms. Murphy said that there are two legs of the trails that were moved to higher ground. She will update the map, but there is one more section to be realigned. So far people have been following the re-aligned trails. Mr. Campbell also said that the signs for the Oaklands are ready. The commission talked about some different options to secure the signs when they arrive.

ii. Industrial Drive Parking lot and trail access

The trail access and parking lot are now complete.

iii. Blazing supplies

MOTION: Ms. Raub moved to expend up to \$50 for blazing supplies. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Koff asked about the trail race that had donated \$250 to the conservation fund. They had noted that there were some issues with major bridges and boardwalks. Ms. Murphy said she will clarify exactly what location those issues were in.

c. Outreach

i. Raynes Fall Events

Ms. Raub said that she needs to come up with a date for the Story Walk. She suggested the end of October or beginning of November. The commission decided on October 27th or 28th. This would be following pages of the book to a certain location, and it would be theme-based. Ms. Raub has some ideas for a book to select but hasn't chosen one. Mr. Koff said he would help out with the event too.

There will be a disc golf event occurring on 9/15 and 9/16 at Stratham Hill Park, prior to the commission's disc golf event in October. Ms. Murphy suggested that the Commission have a table at the event to promote their upcoming disc golf event. Ms. Raub said that she could help out. Mr. Piskovitz suggested finding out what their peak hours would be. Ms. Murphy suggested including a flyer of the event, and some pictures and brochures about the Raynes farm. Ms. Ward will also help out to review flyers and other promotional materials.

There are some flyers for fall events that would be good to get laminated, so they are protected.

MOTION: Ms. Raub moved to expend \$75 for laminating the signs. Mr. Piskovitz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

There is a plaque that they can get that will say that the Raynes Barn is located on the state historic registry. The commission is going to hold off on this until they can see what the plaque looks like.

ii. Draft Sign Review (Little River @ Garrison Lane, Morrissette @ Skate Park)

The commission decided to wait on this to review them more thoroughly.

7. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Raub moved to approve the minutes from the June 12th, 2018 meeting as submitted. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Piskovitz moved to approve the minutes from July 10th, 2018 meeting as submitted. Ms. Raub seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (9/11/18), Submission Deadline (8/31/18)

The commission decided the change of their next meeting date to 9/4/18, because 9/11/18 is voting day.

MOTION: Mr. Piskovitz moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by recording secretary Samantha Cave.