



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Conservation Commission

Thursday April 9, 2015

7:30pm @ Community Development Department

Attendance

Wayne Morris, Chairman- present
James Finn, Vice Chairman- present
Pam Skinner- excused
Bernie Rouillard- excused
Justin Pare-excused
Lisa Ferrisi- present
Jason Rogers- Alternate-present

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.

Meeting Minutes - Review and Approve

March 26, 2015

James Finn made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lisa Ferrissi seconded.
Vote 4-0.

Discussion

Public trail access to the Gage lands from Burnham Road

Mrs. Jill Graham wrote an email in reference to the right-of-way on the Gage lands. The Chairman referenced a letter from Laura Scott to Peter Zohdi dated December 17, 2014 in regards to parcel 20-3-3020. There appears to have been an oversight on the part of the developer; there needed to have been a right-of-way planned for in this area. Mrs. Jill Graham spoke before the Commission. Mrs. Graham states that a trail was supposed to be built on this land prior to their house build. The proposed trail would be built right next to the house. The current back yard would be right up against the side of the trail. The trail would be next to the backyard and Mrs. Graham is concerned for the safety of her four children. The residents were told by the surveyor that the trail would be very "subtle" and it would not be "high traffic". There is no longer an easement on the property; it is now beside the property. Mrs. Graham understands they, as the homeowners, are ultimately responsible to respect what has been stated. The Commission stated that boardwalks may be needed because of wet areas in the spring. There is a 50 foot right-of-way. A few of the present pine trees would need to be removed for a 4 foot

wide right-of-way. Burnham Road used to be a dirt road that allowed access to the Gage lands. The Conservation Commission would like to provide access for the public. The Conservation Commission would envision a winding path that would allow access. Easements can certainly become wet seasonally and boardwalks may be necessary to allow access. The need to cut down low brush and create a path would be the intention. The Conservation Commission is not interested in taking down mature trees and the path would continue to the path that is back there. Some developments have paved paths that allow access and there is the need for granite markers. The Commission does not envision this path to be a high traffic area since this development does not connect to other neighborhoods at this time. The Commission recalls the old snowmobile trails that once went back and forth across Windham years ago and sometimes seek to restore that path system when applicable. The path going to the Gage lands would not be paved. Hunting is permitted on the Gage lands at this time; It was Recreation that felt that hunting should be allowed. Chief Lewis was under the impression hunting should not be allowed. The Commission did not recommend hunting last year and they stand by that choice because of the close proximity to the high school and houses. The granite posts are sometimes needed to indicate where public access is; this is a comment about the trails in general not specific to Burnham Road. The Commission indicated that there have been these concerns in regard to the more heavily travelled Rail Trail; there have been no complaints by these abutters. Mr. Rogers stated that hunting may be an activity that people may enjoy on the Gage lands; this is an important factor to consider when looking at the whole population of Windham. The marker may not look great, but, if there is a marker, walkers and hikers tend to stay on the trail rather than wander through woods or yards.

This is a comment on public trails in general. April 18th, 2015 will be a trail-clearing day at one of the locations. An announcement will be in the paper this week.

2015 Master Plan Phase II

A letter was presented from Laura Scott. She is looking for input from the Conservation Commission for the second phase that will occur in the fall. At least one meeting with the Planning Board might be important to see what level of input they are looking for. The Commission stated that they are willing to share their input, yet, they would like to clarify what level of input is needed from this Commission. Mr. Case spoke as a citizen before the Commission and indicated that this might be specifically in reference to Natural Resources.

Campbell Farm Subcommittee Update

Several members, James Finn and Lisa Ferrisi, went to New Hampshire Conservation Alliance in Concord, NH. The Subcommittee will be approaching the Commission to discuss an itemized list. The last week in April would be an approximate start time. The time line would be 10-15 weeks of assistance in duration and would cost \$2500. The subcommittee feels as if they may need someone with an area of expertise around proper land use. James Finn made a motion to approve the budget of \$2500 for the Project Plan for the New Hampshire Conservation Alliance. Seconded by Lisa Ferrisi. Vote 4-0.

Technical Review Committee (TRC) – April 14

Cases scheduled, but not yet submitted for 4/14 TRC meeting will be reviewed and commented on.

One application was reviewed that would have no change to the footprint. No objections by the Commission.

Planning Board – April 29 Public Hearing on Site Plan Regulations.

The Conservation Commission would like to go to the public hearing before the Planning Board and offer their input.

WEDC Market Square Zoning Workshop presentation April 29, 2015 that will be before the Planning Board. The Commission will not be able to comment at this time as there is no written proposal available.

ZBA – April 28 No Cases

DES- No communication

Mail A letter regarding lands north of the weigh station. An area of 336, 021 sq. ft. will now be impacted by the Interstate 93 expansion.

A brochure for the Wild and Scenic Film Festival on April 24th, 2015. “A Tale of Two Timber Harvests” located in Portsmouth, NH.

Misc. Items

A discussion about a letter from Mr. Jim Gove in regards to a trail repair. He was looking for a Dredge and Fill permit, yet, if the area is less than 3000 sq. ft., a permit may not be needed. It appeared to be a straightforward permit. At this time, Wayne Morris mentioned a letter from Comprehensive Trail Services out of Candia, NH. The company provides trail repair services. A bridge will be needed to expand the brook and a boardwalk will be needed. A bank is not present on either side so laying boards across is not an option at this time. The Commission feels like a service is well worth paying for to use “helix screws” that will offer additional support and expertise. If the “helix screws” are 7 ft. or so in length, it may be difficult to get in the ground that far without hitting ledge.

A discussion item was presented about a parcel on Londonderry Road abutting Campbell Farm. The Commission would like to plan a site walk of this parcel for Thursday, April 16th, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made by Wayne Morris to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Seconded by James Finn. Vote 4-0.

Minutes submitted by Anitra Brodeur, Conservation Commission Minute-Taker.

Next Meeting: April 23, 2015