

Minutes: Kingston Conservation Commission

12/6/18

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm

Present: Evy Nathan, Marghi Bean, John Ricker, Bob Smith, Ken Twombly, Linda Foss, Amanda Prophet

Guests: Luke Hurley - Gove Environmental Services
Russel Chute, Paul Dearborn – Powwow Pond Council
Walt Roy, Andrea Kenter, Joe Sholomith

*Dates for 2019 meetings were handed out. The library has approved all dates.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from last month's meeting were accepted as written. Motion by John, Bob second.

Treasurer's Report:

John reported that TD Bank recommends combining the Conservation Commission and Forest Fund money market accounts. This will allow the Commission to receive the higher interest rate (currently 1%) on both accounts. Marghi motioned to combine the accounts, Bob second, all in favor.

John confirmed that the Commission made a cash contribution to NH Trailblazers snowmobile club to thank them for their work on the Frye Town Forest trails.

Correspondence:

The Commission received an email from a Ridgewood resident complaining that the neighbor at 31 Clark Road was plowing snow, and along with it a substantial amount of dirt, up to the edge of Great Pond. Evy contacted Rich St. Hilaire to request that he inspect the site. Calvin Diesner of NH DES Shoreland Protection said that while disturbing the shore buffer was not allowed there were no specific regulations regarding snow plowing. Evy replied, suggesting that the resident relate her concerns to Kingston Lake Association.

The Nature Conservancy sent an invitation to a Solstice get-together, December 20, 4pm – 6pm in Concord.

The Fall 2018 NH DES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau Supply Lines newsletter featured an article on a new web-based program to help homeowners determine if they have lead contamination in their water pipes.

SELT newsletters were handed out.

Planning Board, DES, OEP:

*266 Route 125, Tax map R41 Lot 17: Luke Hurley, a wetlands scientist with Gove Environmental Services, appeared before the Commission to present and answer questions concerning the dredge and fill application for the proposed building project. The project, proposed by property owner 266 Route 125 LLC, is to construct a 486,000 sq. ft. commercial building with parking. The contracted engineering firm for the project is Dubay Group, Windham, NH. The proposed building will be situated over an existing 3,858 sq. ft. wetland area. Mr. Hurley explained the scope of the project and replied to questions regarding the wetland's status as a vernal pool, and the project's impact on the immediate area.

It was noted that the large project is outside the limits of shoreland protection zone, and in response to NHB suggestions, have proposed a 10+ ac. conservation easement for the northeast side of the property, running from the northerly property boundary to the north bank of the Little River. Evy Nathan had received the d&f permit and NHB's initial response, but not NHB's consent to the mitigation area. Mr. Hurley apologized and said he would email it to her.

The Natural Heritage Bureau of the NH Division of Forests and Lands stated that no turtle habitat existed within the bounds of the proposed building. However, NHB map shows multiple Blandings sightings all around the area.

Andrea Kenter, an abutter with a water easement on the property to the Little River, made a statement in opposition to the project.

Mr. Sholomith, a guest, expressed general dismay at large projects (specifying Epping) being approved, which are placed near and over wetland areas.

The NH Division of Historical Resources considers the banks of the Little River an archaeologically sensitive area, and stated that a survey would need to be done.

Evy made the following requests and observations:

- 1) The wetlands permit application does not list the to-be "wetland" as a vernal pool. However, given the change in elevation this wetland must certainly collect water during rainy periods and spring snowmelt. Similar pools on the abutting property have been surveyed by a wetland scientist, and found to be viable VP's.
- 2) The affected area is listed under scrub/shrub on the application. Ms. Nathan requested that Mr. Hurley change this to the vernal pool line.
- 3) The wetland is described as an isolated system because it is not hydrologically connected to other wetlands. However, the uplands are connected to the three vernal pools containing obligate species on an adjacent property being developed by Bresnahan Storage. Bresnahan has adjusted their plans to comply with the Commission's request to provide an adequate buffer for the vernal pools.
- 4) The proposed building and parking will comprise a large amount of impervious surface, and sheet flow runoff to Little River is a primary concern. The Alteration of Terrain permit application will need to address how stormwater runoff will be handled.

- 5) The Commission will recommend that the Planning Board request an Environmental Impact Assessment to assess and document natural resources and the impacts to these resources. Depending upon the use of the building, the CC guesses that a Regional Impact Assessment may need to be done.

DES: DES has approved James Merritt's application to build bog bridges on the Frye blue trail.

LCIP Monitoring: All LCIP monitoring walks have been completed, and all reports except Mayhew have been submitted.

Powwow Pond Council:

Russell Chute and Paul Dearborn presented information from PPC's annual meeting. They discussed their continuing efforts to mitigate milfoil in Powwow Pond, noting that there was significant new growth observed by NH DES in August. Milfoil was removed by divers in September and are scheduled to return in May and June of 2019. They plan to present a warrant article to the Town of Kingston for 2019 to raise \$14,000 for next year's milfoil remediation, noting that they expect a matching grant from NH DES of 25%.

They presented 2018 water testing results for Powwow Pond, noting that while the overall Total Phosphorous concentrations were near average in most spots tested, there were two spots that had very high TP concentrations. In one spot, it seems clear that runoff from Route 125 is the cause of the higher concentration. High concentrations in the second spot may result from a combination of farming runoff and internal loading in shallow areas.

PPC also reported that their permit application for cutting a 6-foot, 1-mile channel through the weeds on Powwow Pond was approved. They are currently trying to raise funds for professional cutting with a harvester, at an estimated cost of \$6,000 per cutting.

Signs/Trails/Forests:

Bob and Marghi walked the Sargent trail and investigated the connection with the ET's Landing trail. It was noted that the wet area under the power lines was very deep. A bridge in that area would be required in order to connect the Sargent trails with ET's Landing, but ownership of the easement at that point would have to be investigated, and the utility consulted.

Mapping of Acorn South and North trails has been completed. The next trails to be mapped are Valley Lane, followed by Sargent.

Warrant Article:

Evy presented the warrant article to designate the town-owned Rockrimmon property accessible from Acorn Drive as a Town Forest. A name was again discussed. The proposed name was agreed on as Acorn Town Forest South and North to avoid confusion with the Rockrimmon State Forest.

Town-Wide Pollinator Project:

Marghi will start recruiting volunteers after Christmas. She will contact the existing list of potential volunteers by email and will inquire about announcing the project on the town website's home page.

NH DES Dock Permitting Changes:

Evy attended a class at NHACC on the new DES permitting process. The rule most effecting CC's would be not informing CC's of Permit by Notifications. Evy does not feel this is a positive step, as CC's may have additional information concerning these permits.

Acorn Drive/DiPietro Incursion:

In lieu of sending the letter we submitted, the Select Board asked the DiPietros to come to the office to speak about the ATV incursion. Mrs. DiPietro did not come on the appointed day, and so only Susan Ayer was available to speak with her. Susan doesn't know the details of the incursion and so this could not be effective. Evy will discuss the situation with Peter Coffin of the Trails Committee, and SELT, to determine our next step.

Work to be done:

Volunteers are needed to install the owl box provided by the Campcraft Kids at Valley Lane Town Forest.

Help and a truck are needed to remove the trash from Acorn forest.

Meeting was adjourned 8:45 pm

Next meeting Thursday, January 3, 2019 6:45 pm at the library