

MINUTES

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**1 JUNKINS AVENUE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

3:30 p.m.

January 11, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Miller; Members, Allison Tanner, Barbara McMillan, Kimberly Meuse, Alternate Samantha Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chairman MaryAnn Blanchard; Matthew Cardin; Kate Zamarchi; Adrienne Harrison

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner/Sustainability Coordinator

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I. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Chairman, Vice Chairman

Ms. Tanner moved to postpone election of officers to the February 8, 2017 meeting, seconded by Ms. Meuse. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 14, 2016

Ms. Tanner moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Wright. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

III. STATE WETLANDS BUREAU PERMIT APPLICATIONS

1. Standard Dredge and Fill Application
363 New Castle Avenue
Briggs Realty Association, Delaware, LLC, owner
Assessor Map 205, Lot 3
(This applicant has asked to postpone to the February 8, 2017 meeting.)

Mr. Britz noted that the applicant will most likely request withdrawal and a response should be received within the next few weeks.

Ms. Tanner moved to postpone review of the application to a time uncertain, seconded by Ms. Wright.

Ms. McMillan asked whether the applicant needs to notify abutters. Mr. Britz explained that when a City application is postponed indefinitely, it needs to be re-advertised and reposted.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

IV. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS

- A. 36 Shaw Road (Amendment)
Gregory C & Sandra M. DeSisto, owners
Assessor Map 223, Lot 22

Ms. Sandy Desisto, owner/applicant, provided a list of revisions to the plan, which were mainly housekeeping items that arose during construction.

Chairman Miller asked why the changes arose. Ms. Desisto explained that the heating system was changed to a propane backup system. She added that the rain garden configuration is mainly due to allowing the heat pump pads to be level with the ground.

Ms. Desisto confirmed for Ms. Tanner that the rain garden would catch runoff from the garage roof.

Ms. Desisto explained to Ms. Wright that the bulkhead was determined unnecessary since access to the garage basement was identified.

Ms. McMillan asked to describe the reconfiguration of the rain garden. Ms. Desisto replied that it previously abutted the garage. It was pushed back in order to locate the heat pumps on a flat pad.

Ms. Desisto confirmed there would not be gutters, there will be a standard drip edge.

Ms. Desisto explained that the drain line and manhole was relocated closer to the house to allow the heavy equipment to access the rear patio area.

Chairman Miller questioned the fertilizer use area. Ms. Desisto noted that it was a requirement to file with the deed the designation of where fertilizer use is allowed.

Ms. McMillan moved to approve the application to the Planning Board as presented, seconded by Ms. Meuse. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

V. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Report from January 5, 2017 sub-committee meeting concerning Great Bog access/trails

Mr. Britz noted that Ms. McMillan, Ms. Meuse, Ms. Tanner, Chairman Miller, Brian Hart, and one citizen were present for the sub-committee meeting. The main goal is to support improving the trail for two reasons: 1) to protect the land from off-road use; and, 2) to improve the wetland area around where a boardwalk could connect to the Bog. It is important to notify the City Council once the grant writing process begins to convey the message of intended stewardship of City-owned property. He noted that Mr. Hart thought that in-kind funds, Conservation Commission, or General Funds could possibly be utilized. Also, the DPW may be able to provide a match by providing equipment and labor.

Chairman Miller asked what procedures would be involved to facilitate a public fund-raising campaign. Mr. Britz believed the best way would to have Southeast Land Trust run the campaign with the Commission’s support. He stated he would discuss with the Finance department whether there are any potential issues with fund-raising.

Mr. Britz added that contracting a wetland scientist and applying for a wetland permit will be necessary. That may result in a bidding process, if the services exceed the \$16,000 threshold. An RFP is necessary if the amount is below \$16,000 then three quotes are necessary before hiring a contractor. He mentioned the potential grant considered is from NH Division of Forest and Lands.

Mr. Britz mentioned that Fish and Game would most likely not be interested in expanding the trails for recreation at the site. Currently, a local farmer mows the trails and it was not discussed as to whether or not the City would assume that maintenance.

Mr. Britz noted that the Pease Development Authority mitigation opportunity is likely to focus on the Banfield Rd. property, rather than the Great Bog boardwalk.

Chairman Miller felt the fund-raising efforts would increase citizen involvement and ownership of the project. Those types of public outreach events would build the support base through financial buy-ins. Mr. Britz added that it might be an opportunity to team with the Chamber of Commerce to help engage local businesses for more stewardship events, especially near Borthwick Ave.

The Commission discussed engaging the Stewardship Network to coordinate a group to remove bittersweet shoots along the cross country trail at the High School between April to May.

- 2. Dues for NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists - \$20.00

Ms. Tanner moved to approve the expenditure of \$20.00 for the NHANRS yearly dues, seconded by Ms. Wright. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 4:16 p.m. was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

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Respectfully submitted,

Marissa Day
Acting Secretary for the Conservation Commission

These minutes were approved at the Conservation Commission meeting on February 8, 2017.