# Minutes of the October 8, 2003 Conservation Commission Meeting CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

3:30 P.M. PLANNING DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM OCTOBER 8, 2003

**PRESENT:** Chairman Alanson Sturgis; Members, Charles Cormier; J. Lyn Walters;

Donald Green; and, Stephen Miller

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Allison Tanner and Brian Wazlaw

**ALSO PRESENT:** Peter Britz, Environmental Planner, and

David Moore, Community Development Department Intern

Chairman Sturgis called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

## 1. Acceptance of minutes from meeting of September 10, 2003

Mr. Walters made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2003 meeting; Mr. Cormier seconded and was approved with a 5-0 vote.

### 2. Conditional Use Permit Applications:

### a) Liberty Mutual for 225 Borthwick Avenue

Mr. Connor Nagle of Vanasse Hangen Brusstlin, Inc. stated the site is currently occupied by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company; however, there have been recent pipe failures and the existing fire protection main is deteriorating due to high sodium content in the soil. Because of the pipe failures, Liberty Mutual is looking into seeking an alternative, which they are referring to as the Liberty Mutual Fire Protection Project and pump station.

Mr. Michael Leo, the Project Manager from VHB, stated the proposed construction includes lining the existing ductile iron fire protection and domestic water lines with PVC which would entail opening 17 pits through which they can access the pipes and pull a liner through. This method was chosen so as not to disturb underground fiber optics and utilities. The project also includes the addition of a sewage pump station near the entrance to the site. A force main from the pump station will connect the sewer service to the main on Borthwick Avenue.

Mr. Leo stated that gravity would drain the water out to Borthwick Avenue. There has been some surging and Liberty Mutual has experienced back up onto the location of the sewer lines, which is how this problem was discovered. During the project, the structure will be shored up. It will be a heavy concrete structure to keep from being lifted up by the groundwater. There will be no connection between ground water and sewer as shown on the plans submitted to Peter Rice. Mr. Leo stated they were concerned about erosion control and he recommended that a crushed stone drain and silt fence be erected around the location. Landscaping the area will be done to bring the area back to the original condition. He added that other options have been looked at; however,

the power line easement is across the street and does not allow for this location to be used.

Mr. Cormier moved a favorable recommendation be made to the Planning Board for the water supply upgrade and pump station; Mr. Miller seconded and all approved with a 5-0 vote.

Chairman Sturgis stated he was concerned that the application came in incomplete with the water supply described in the text of the application but not the pump station shown on the plans. Mr. Connor stated this was his fault and did forget to include the additional information. Chairman Sturgis stated he accepted this explanation; however, he added that he did not want this to happen again.

#### 3. Other Business

a) Chairman Sturgis stated there were three wetland applications to consider and they are all in the area that he is very familiar with. Pickering Marine will do the work for these three projects and they will be reviewed by the Harbor Master. Mr. Green replied that the Harbor Master does not have the same concerns as he does.

The first is for 219 Gosport Road for Bruce Crockett on Sagamore Creek to build a 4' x 30' pier with a seasonal ramp and float. There will be no impact to the surface area of Sagamore Creek nor will there be any impact on plants, fish and wildlife. Chairman Sturgis stated that the project will have no impact on abutting property owners. Most properties on the shoreline have a dock structure of some type and many are larger in scope than what is proposed.

Mr. Green asked how big a swath of land was going to go into Sagamore Creek and added that he feels the Commission needs more information if he is going to vote in the affirmative. He feels that Pickering Marine can do a better job to show specific information.

Chairman Sturgis stated it looks as though three neighbors are trying to do the same thing, adding why wouldn't the neighbors get together and consider having one dock.

Mr. Walters feels this application is OK with him.

Mr. Cormier made the motion to recommend approval; Mr. Walters seconded.

Mr. Green feels there should be more concern about the large size of the dock and the application should have more detail showing where exactly the dock will be placed; therefore, he will vote against the application. He added what is the sense of having a dock that no one can pass under or over.

The motion to recommend approval was granted with a 4-1 vote with Mr. Green voting in the negative.

b) Chairman Sturgis stated that this application for Don Albertson was very similar to the to the above application with a request to install a 6' x 20' pier with a seasonal ramp and float to access Sagamore Creek from his waterfront

property. There is no marsh vegetation at the site. The float will have skids to support it above the mud.

Chairman Sturgis stated that in his experience, plants, fish and wildlife are not impacted by this type of dock and there will be no impact on the abutting properties surface or ground water. He added that most properties on this shoreline have a dock structure of some type and many larger in scope than this.

Mr. Cormier made a motion to recommend approval to the Planning Board; Mr. Walter seconded and was approved with a 5-0 vote.

c) Chairman Sturgis stated that the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has an application for the Creek Farm on Little Harbour Road who are proposing to reconstruct an existing deteriorated 4' x 40' pier and associated ramp and float

The structure is used for private residential access to Sagamore Creek and is a replacement of a structure, which has been in place for many years. He added there will be no changes which would further impact the surface area of Sagamore Creek nor will there be any impact on plants, fish and wildlife. Chairman Sturgis stated there will no negative impact on abutters nor will there be any effect on the values and functions of the total wetland complex; and again, most properties on this shoreline have a dock structure of some type, many larger in scope than this. The structure has been at this location for many years.

Mr. Walters made a motion to recommend approval; Mr. Cormier seconded and was approved with a 5-0 vote.

4) Next scheduled Meeting: November 12, 2003

#### 5) Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting on November 12, 2003 and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Long
Planning Department Secretary

/jml