

**WORK SESSION
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**1 JUNKINS AVENUE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PLANNING DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM**

3:30 P.M.

JUNE 27, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Miller; Vice Chairman James Horrigan; Members, Allison Tanner, Barbara McMillan, Eva Powers; and Alternate Richard Adams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Skye Maher, Brian Wazlaw, and Mary Ann Blanchard, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner

The Commission decided that the best way to proceed with discussion on possible zoning changes was make a list of areas in need of strengthening and/or clarification and how best to integrate it into the ordinance.

1) Vice Chairman Horrigan thought that the title of Article VI should be more specific and might read *Wetlands and Environmental Protection*.

2) Vice Chairman Horrigan stated that restoration of the wetlands should be stressed in the ordinance. He suggested that the word “improve be added to the Section 10-603, A., 1 to read “To maintain and *improve* the quality of surface waters...”

He also suggested in Section 10-603, A., 4, that the word “improve” be added to read, “To protect and *improve* wildlife habitats...”

He also suggested in Section 10-603, A., 2, that the word “impairment” be added to read, “To prevent the destruction or *impairment* of...”

Ms. Tanner felt that Section 10-603 A., 2 should be reworked in more detail.

3) There was discussion about strengthening the wording in Section 10-601 Authority but Mr. Britz suggested that they would have to look into who has what authority.

4) Ms. Tanner pointed out that RSA 674-21 might be what they would want to put in the Section 10-601 Authority.

- 5) Chairman Miller wondered if it would be advantageous to separate the wetlands protection from other things and maybe create a new Article. Mr. Britz suggested that they could have separate sections within the same Article. Ms. Tanner liked Mr. Britz's idea.
- 6) Mr. Adams felt the zoning ordinance was formless. He felt it should be more concise. He said that he would start with a good outline. He offered to submit an example of what he was suggesting. He thought the general section should be redone as he felt it did not say anything.
- 7) Mr. Horrigan said he would like to see a change in Section 10-601 to include possibly the word "*impairment*" of the wetlands.
- 8) Ms. Tanner felt that the ordinance should include mitigation. She also added that there are no regulations about mowing in a wetland.
- 9) Mr. Adams and Chairman Miller thought it would be good to have better clarification as to setbacks.
- 10) There was lengthy discussion about allowing manmade draining structures in wetlands.
- 11) Mr. Horrigan stated that he thought there should be distinction between residential and commercial development requirements. (Section 10-609) He would also like to see more detail in Section 10-608, B.
- 12) Mr. Britz said that he wanted to have an ordinance that enhanced wetlands, not just protecting what is there. Ms. Tanner added that they should be looking at protecting the environment beyond the wetlands.
- 13) Chairman Miller wanted to see guidelines for the protection of vernal pools in the ordinance.
- 14) Ms. Powers stated that she wanted to look at ways to protect trees and plants.

Mr. Britz said that it would be helpful to have a list of areas in need of change to give to the Zoning Ordinance Planning Consultant.

The Commission decided that they would meet again to discuss this further. The date and time will be announced at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Good
Conservation Commission Secretary

These minutes were approved at the Conservation Commission Meeting on August 8, 2007.