

**WORK SESSION - MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**1 JUNKINS AVENUE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONFERENCE ROOM "A"**

3:30 P.M.

MARCH 17, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Miller; Vice Chairman James Horrigan; Members, Allison Tanner, Barbara McMillan, Brian Wazlaw, Mary Ann Blanchard, Catherine Ennis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner

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I. BACKGROUND

Mr. Mark West of West Environmental, Inc. and Ms. Anne Deely of Neatline Associates were present to speak to the report.

Mr. Britz stated that each Commissioner received a draft copy of the Portsmouth Undeveloped Lands Assessment Report (PULA) for their review. He explained that the report was an inventory of all City owned conservation land. The report consisted of three items: the recommendation sheet, the map, and the data sheet. Mr. Britz said that the three items would need to be integrated into an introductory piece for each parcel.

II. OVERVIEW OF DOCUMENT

Mr. West explained that he has added a section to the report that would be a basic site description. It would tell them parcel size, nature of the parcel, its location in relationship to the City, and whether it was accessible or inaccessible.

Ms. Deely stated that her role with the inventory was to do the GIS aspect of the report. She explained in great detail how the database was set up to sort all of the data collected on the individual parcels. She said that there was a data sheet for every one of the 91 parcels.

Mr. West explained that there was a pool of information that they drew from in order to understand each property and to complete the data sheet. They were able to get information on rare plant communities within the City from the State. He explained that they placed symbols on the PULA maps to show specific situations on various parcels.

Chairman Miller suggested that the symbols that indicate various situations on a parcel should be located someplace other than on the individual maps since the symbols did not necessarily

indicate the exact location of that situation or item. Mr. West pointed out that some of the symbols needed to be located on the map to show access. Chairman Miller pointed out that some of the symbols were hard to read. Ms. Deely said that she could work on that.

Mr. West explained in detail how they went about collecting the data on each parcel. He also talked about conservation easements and potential access to some of the parcels.

There was discussion concerning the location of homeless sites and how best to utilize that information for the report.

Mr. Britz stressed the importance of the inventory. It would tell them not only what was on City owned land but would also make suggestions on what should be done with them.

Chairman Miller thought it was important to know the parcels that showed co-occurrence.

Additional discussion was had on a variety of topics pertaining to the parcels evaluated: trails, connectivity, protecting and managing wildlife habitats, wetland restoration, education potential, forest management, alternative energy, community gardens, and stewardship clean up.

Mr. West pointed out that 67% of the sites had invasive species on them.

Mr. West reminded the Commission that this was a draft report. They were planning to go through the entire report one last time.

III. DETAILS/CHANGES TO INCORPORATE

Vice Chairman Horrigan pointed out that parcel sheets 9-14 and 16, 17, and 18 were missing from the report. Mr. West said that they had those sheets but they were inadvertently omitted. They would make sure they were included in the next draft.

Mr. Britz said that they wanted to make sure that this inventory could be updated when future parcels are acquired.

Mr. West explained that they would like to get everyone's comments before they do the final edit.

There was discussion about showing streams on the parcel maps or the City-wide map.

Chairman Miller felt the Commission should set a meeting to discuss the report in greater detail among themselves. It was also discussed on how to go about getting public input of the report. Ms. Blanchard felt the Commission needed to discuss among themselves what they want to focus on and what recommendations they will want to make. She also said that there was value in having Mr. West make a public presentation once the Commission accepts the report.

It was decided that the Commission would meet again to work on edits to the draft report and get those edits to Mr. West so that a final report can be prepared and a public presentation could be

planned. Chairman Miller told the Commission that they needed to review the document before the next work session.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:55 p.m., it was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Good
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the Conservation Commission meeting on June 9, 2010.