

**ACTION SHEET
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

3:30 P.M.

March 08, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Barbara McMillan; Vice Chair Samantha Collins; Members: Allison Tanner, Lynn Vaccaro, Jessica Blasko, Thaddeus Jankowski, Stewart Sheppard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alternates: Abigail Gindele and Brian Gibb

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner/Sustainability Coordinator and Kate Homet, Associate Environmental Planner

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I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 01, 2023

*After due deliberation, the Commission voted to **approve** the minutes as presented.*

II. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS (NEW BUSINESS)

1. 96 Buckminster Way
Crystal & Aaron Nersesian, Owners
Map 282, Lot 6-7

*After due deliberation, the Commission voted to recommend **approval** of the Wetland Conditional Use Permit to the Planning Board with the following **stipulations**:*

- 1. Native plantings shall be planted to help with storm-water flow - this will consist of at least five shrubs that are four feet on center.*
 - 2. The foundation of the shed will be crushed stone base and concrete blocks - not a poured foundation. The applicant shall remove the section of application that misrepresents the foundation.*
 - 3. NOFA standards shall be used in landscaping and lawn care-
http://www.organiclandcare.net/sites/default/files/nofa_organic_land_care_standards_6thedition_2017_opt.pdf*
 - 4. Wetland boundary markers shall be placed along or near the buffer.*
2. 86 New Castle Avenue
Jacob Sullivan & Margaret Goodlander, Owners
Map 207, Lot 70

*After due deliberation, the Commission voted to recommend **approval** of the Wetland Conditional Use Permit to the Planning Board with the following **stipulations**:*

- 1. The applicant shall provide a plan in the their Planning Board submission that addresses roof drainage and how storm-water will be infiltrated with the new addition before it reaches the wetland.*
- 2. The applicant shall post wetland boundary marker signs along or near the buffer.*
- 3. The applicant shall follow NOFA standards- http://www.organiclandcare.net/sites/default/files/nofa_organic_land_care_standards_6thedition_2017_opt.pdf*
- 4. The applicant shall include a planting plan that includes native plantings in their submission to the Planning Board that is of equal or greater area than what currently exists for plantings. This plan should be submitted to the Planning & Sustainability Director prior to submission to the Planning Board.*
- 5. The property owners be given a maintenance guide for the pervious paver materials.*
- 6. The existing area of meadow shall remain undisturbed and will continue to be a meadow.*

III. COMMITTEE AND PROJECT UPDATES

Chair Collins discussed the upcoming Earth Day events and specifically, a stewardship event that was being planning for invasive removals.

Mr. Britz asked Ms. Tanner to clarify what the event will look like and the overall plan. Ms. Tanner noted that a few sites for invasive removal could include the Little Harbour loop trail or the trails behind the high school. A local nursery has donated 100 seed packets to be handed out to volunteers as a thank you.

Mr. Britz brought up the Great Bog trails that have become overgrown with invasives which could also be a good contender. This trail is usually used by hunters, but it would be great if it could be cleared and then used for hiking and recreation.

Vice Chair McMillan mentioned that they would be looking for volunteers from the Commission for both events, the tabling event on the day before Earth Day and for the invasive removal on Earth Day. She noted that the volunteer invasive workshop would be a great opportunity for educating the public on invasive species and how to recognize them in your own yard.

Ms. Blasko asked if there could be a list made for all the native and invasive species commonly seen so that it could be passed out to people during the tabling event on Friday for more education.

Ms. Tanner mentioned that instead of handing out paper copies, it may be more beneficial to have that type of material online and just have QR codes posted for directing people to the handouts online.

Chair Collins brought up the ordinance review. Ms. Tanner, Vice Chair McMillan, and herself will be meeting to discuss amendments on April 10th and will bring those results to a Commission workshop after that meeting which will get the ball rolling on amendments to the environmental section of the Zoning Ordinance.

Vice Chair McMillan brought up that she recently attended a Governance Committee meeting where the City's undeveloped lands were discussed for potential recreation opportunities. She mentioned the Commission's conservation goals and open space plan and noted that much of what they were discussing would be in the Commission's purview.

Ms. Tanner mentioned her concern for the conservation lands and the stipulations that are attached to them. Her worry is that some people do not realize those stipulations and the constraints involved with those parcels.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Vaccaro noted that the two Earth Day events would be a great opportunity to raise more awareness of the City's conservation land with maps or some sort of interactive display that points out what parcels the City owns and is preserving as open space.

Ms. Vaccaro also noted that the Piscataqua Regions Estuary Partnership (PREP) recently released a grant program that they may be able to utilize for land use ordinance updates.

Mr. Britz noted that he could look into the PREP grant but that it may be challenging if there are deadlines for getting amendments accepted by.

Mr. Britz also reminded everyone that the conservation funding money is in the CIP which was passed and could be adopted for the summer in the budget. Ms. Tanner noted the need to move ahead on conservation acquisition before certain properties made it to the market.

V. ADJOURNMENT

*At 4:33p.m., the Commission voted to **adjourn** the meeting.*