

Conservation Commission Meeting
Public Minutes
July 10, 2024

Members Present: Becky Dunham (Chair), Bob Stephens (Vice Chair), Andy Laroche, Brian Silva, Matt Lipinski (Secretary), Paul Kleinman (Selectboard Rep), Doug Cowie (Alternate), Patrick Marcoux (Alternate), Rob Wofchuck (Alternate).

Chairman Dunham called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Lipinski moved to make Doug Cowie a voting member at tonight's meeting. Laroche seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Agenda Items (Item numbers correspond to the sequence shown on posted agenda)

1. **Minutes Review:** Review of the draft Minutes from the June 12, 2024 Commission meeting. Three changes were proposed. Motion by Cowie and second by Stephens to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. **Presentation by Brendan Quigley of Gove Environmental Services, Inc.:** Brendan presented a development proposal for the R.E. Prescott project at 79-113 Hwy 27 and the plan to address environmental impacts to the existing pond, ditch, wetlands area, and the portion of the buffer zone where a retaining wall is to be built. The property is currently overgrown and in need of maintenance. Mitigation will be done to the impacted areas unless DES decides that is unnecessary. Numerous questions were raised by the Commissioners and substantial discussion occurred. The plan is to fill in the existing pond and ditch so they no longer drain into the wetlands. The project will also result in an upgraded storm water control system, a new, modern septic, and an upgraded leach field. A retaining wall will be built along the rear of the construction site which, under the plan, would encroach upon the established environmental buffer zone to a minor degree. Gove is requesting the Commission's favorable recommendation to the Planning Board and DES for approval of that encroachment. Following discussion, it was agreed that Gove will submit a written plan summary containing its encroachment request to the Commission for consideration. It was agreed the Commission will defer action on Gove's proposal to the August meeting after reviewing that submission.

4. **Presentation by Todd Valentine and Mike Gagnon of SLR Consulting:** SLR presented a plan to expand MTI Polyexe's 30,000 square foot building on Pine Road by an additional 15,000 square feet. The property is over an aquifer and the plan will have a conditional use permit. Todd provided an overview of the project, after which Mike went through the plan in detail, including the written responses submitted to DES on several questions it raised with regard to aquifer impact. Based on those responses as set forth in a letter from SLR to DES, there will be no impact to the aquifer as a result of the building expansion or associated construction. A copy of the letter will be provided to the Commission. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that a property site visit would be scheduled by SLR for Commission and Planning Board members who wished to walk the property.

2. **Bills & Reimbursements:** Dunham noted that expenses totaling \$20.20 were incurred by Bob Magnuson when mowing the Stevens field in May. Upon motion by Stephens and second by Lipinski, the Commission unanimously approved reimbursement of those expenses to Magnusson.

5. **Old Business**

- a. **Stevens Field:** Dunham is still working on the fence removal issue. She also announced several upcoming events and proceedings at Planning Board.
- b. **Capital Improvement Plan:** At the June meeting, Dunham reported that Conservation received the CIP form for 2024-2009 to list any anticipated capital improvement expenditures of \$10,000. Other than the \$3 million bond, no other projects were suggested. Dunham completed the form and submitted by the June 26 deadline.
- c. **Energy and Efficiency Advisory Committee:** Lipinski advised the Patrick Marcoux has agreed to be the Commission's representative to the E&EAC, succeeding Lipinski. Marcoux is working with the E&EAC Chairman to complete the necessary process in order to effect that change.
- d. **Perambulations:** Stephens reported that he met with the applicable official in Exeter and they agreed to defer completing this perambulation until the fall due to current inability to access the necessary areas. Lipinski reported that the completed perambulation in Kingston has been documented and he has contacted the Kingston DPW Director about getting it signed.
- e. **Conservation Commission Handbook Revision:** Lipinski reported the group assembling this update has completed its work, and he provided a final draft of the revised Handbook to all Commissioners for their review. He asked that they complete their review prior to next month's meeting so we can vote on adoption at that time.
- f. **Commissioners Members and Alternates Openings:** Dunham noted that the deadline for applicant submissions on currently posted openings is July 12, 2024. Instructions for completion of applications are posted on the Town website.
- g. **August Speaker:** Brian Hotz from the Society for the protection of NH Forests will present via Teams next month. Stephens is arranging for a speaker to present in October.
- h. **Open Space Subcommittee:** Dunham announced that this group will next meet on July 15, 2024. A tentative agenda will be circulated.
- i. **Consultant:** Dunham reported that she spoke again with Anna Boudreau, who was previously interviewed by some of the Commissioners. She remains interested in

working with us. Lipinski moved to proceed with engaging her services, subject to concluding a mutually acceptable contract with terms and pricing for future work. Cowie seconded. Following discussion, the motion was approved 6-0-1, with Stephens abstaining.

6. New Business

a. **New Easement Inquiries:** None.

7. Other Business:

a. **Next Meeting:** Dunham advised that the next Commission meeting will be on August 14, 2024.

b. **Announcements:** Dunham reported that:

- The budget process is ongoing. She is working with the Town Administrator on the Commission budget for next year.
- The South Road construction and traffic control project has started.
- Marcoux posted photo contest information on the Commission Facebook page. Commissioners should regularly check the page for updates on other meetings and projects.
- She wishes to discuss Commission goals and updates to the Town website this fall.

Upon motion by Stephens, second by Cowie, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.