

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

June 12, 2019, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 41 Green Street

The Concord Conservation Commission (CCC) held its regular monthly meeting on June 12, 2019 in the 2nd floor conference room at 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Chair Kristine Tardiff, Vice-Chair Jim Owers, Councilor Brent Todd, Members Kathy Healy, and Jeff Lewis.

Absent: Tracey Boisvert, Rick Chormann, Chris Kane, Alternate Jan McClure, and Alternate Stefan Mattlage.

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner
Lisa Fellows-Weaver, Administrative Specialist

Public: Two citizens in the audience

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tardiff at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes

May 8, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Owers, seconded by Councilor Todd, to approve the May 8, 2019 minutes, as amended, with edits that do not alter the content of the meeting. Additional discussion was held as Ms. Talmadge, a member of the public, suggested edits be made to the minutes. A motion was made by Councilor Todd, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to table the May 8, 2019 minutes, to the next meeting for further review. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Alison Scheiderer, new Land Conservation Specialist with Five Rivers Conservation Trust, to introduce herself and talk about the Five Rivers conservation planning process.

Ms. Scheiderer introduced herself to the Commission. She provided an overview on what the new position of Land Conservation Specialist with Five Rivers Conservation Trust will involve. She explained that Five Rivers is embarking on a conservation plan that will include the 17 towns that they serve. She plans to meet with each town and discuss what towns consider as a highlight and what should be looked into for area of preservation. She stated that she was very impressed with the City of Concord's Conservation Open Space plan, and asked if there was any additional information not included in the Plan that would be useful to Five Rivers as they develop their plan. Ms. Tardiff stated that the plan is very recent and is the best source for the City.

Members mentioned areas of priority such as the watershed, neighboring town boundaries, horseshoe pond, agricultural lands including the area adjacent to the post office, some of which will be a viable trail access if the Merrimack trail way plans get finalized. In addition, some farm lands are areas viewed as prime real estate; these areas should be on the radar to the City. Flood plains were mentioned as well as the current housing shortages. Members agreed that discussions should be held with neighboring communities that cross municipal boundaries.

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

June 12, 2019, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 41 Green Street

3. NHDES Items

None

4. Reports

a. Trails Subcommittee

Mr. Lewis attended the Trails Subcommittee meeting and provided a synopsis of the meeting for the Commission. He reminded folks of the upcoming hikes.

Mr. Lewis mentioned the spring trail maintenance that has been completed and noted that there has been some replacement of signs.

Mr. Lewis stated that a discussion was held about trail discontinuance process, specifically to close the Healy Park and Merrimack River Trails due to flooding, perpetual encampment and maintenance issues. The process for closing a trail was discussed and it was suggested the City no longer promote these two trails; remove the signs and maps from the website. The Trails Committee should use a similar review of criteria as when planning a new trail. The Trails Committee will schedule a site walk before the next meeting. Mr. Lewis stated that the Trails Committee will provide a formal proposal to the Commission.

Mr. Lewis stated that work will begin on the bridge on the Batchelder Mill Trails this coming Friday.

Mr. Lewis asked about the location of the Heritage Trail as no one appears to know where the trail is and who is in charge of it. Ms. Tardiff stated that she recalls the trail is a State designated trail; however, the City was involved with that process.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she and Leandra Nault, summer forestry intern, will be training with Leave No Trace at Mount Major. It was suggested that Ms. Nault look into additional education and outreach opportunities with the Shaker Road School summer program.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that blazing will need to be done again at the Mast Yard State Forest Trails.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that a granite bench is being donated for the Oak Hill Trail. Another bench is being ordered for a donation.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Walkers Reserve Homeowners' Association met and the residents voted for their HOA to take care of the trails in that area. A City trail steward will still monitor the trail for spring.

Mr. Owers provided an update for the Oak Hill trails.

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

June 12, 2019, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 41 Green Street

Ms. Fenstermacher provided an update with the West End Farm Trail. The Deputy City Solicitor will be contacting Mr. Woodard, the property owner who has closed off access to the trail through his property at District 5 Road, to try to negotiate a trail agreement. Rerouting options and alternative access options are being looked into.

b. *Forestry*

The Forester's report was circulated. Ms. Fenstermacher asked if the Commission is interested in pursuing the timber sale this year as last year it was cancelled due to the company not showing up. Members discussed a site visit be held before next month's meeting.

Ms. Fenstermacher noted that a timber sale may be required in the next year at the Mast Yard forest due to infestation of the red pine stands.

Mr. Klemarczyk provided a suggested list of areas he would recommend being preserved.

c. *Concord Tree Committee*

Ms. Fenstermacher reported that the Committee is a very motivated group of individuals. They will be joining in with General Services and hosting a table at Market Days to support the sustainable tree program. There is a need for more members. They will be working on a tree inventory and will be scoping the inventory project over the next few meetings with the assistance of the Community Forester. The goal is to complete a pilot area in the next year.

d. *Local River Advisory Committees*

Nothing new to report.

5. City Open Space

a. *Preserve Designation – Ad-Hoc Committee*

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that this would be a new committee of the Conservation Committee to discuss land preservation outside of the regular Commission meetings. Ms. Tardiff stated that the Ad-hoc Committee would be able to focus on timber sales, trails, encroachments, future land projects, watersheds, and preservation, etc.

A work session will be scheduled for interested CCC members. Mr. Lewis suggested that a member of the trails committee should be a part of the committee as well.

b. *Education and Outreach*

A discussion was held regarding doing some education and outreach for the community to highlight what the Conservation Commission has done and what is ongoing in the City. Suggestions were to have the PIO create a video highlighting areas of conservation in the City, highlight the existing map which depicts all the conservation land in the City, and create a

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

June 12, 2019, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 41 Green Street

brochure showing the conservation areas in the City. Ms. Tardiff will reach out to Mr. Klemarczyk for history on the Conservation Commission properties.

c. *Easement Monitoring Update*

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the intern from Central NH Regional Planning Commission did easement monitoring training with the Senior Planner and the easement monitoring notification letters will be going out next week.

d. *Dimond Hill Farm*

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that a meeting has been scheduled with the partners of the trust of the Dimond Hill Farm on July 2 at 1 p.m. Jeff Lewis will plan to attend.

6. City Council/Planning Board

a. *District 5 Road*

Councilor Todd stated that City Council voted unanimously to pursue the property on District 5 Road. He commented that the testimony provided by the Commission was very important. It is very valuable to have representation, hear statements, and have an explanation given of the proposals. This helps Council understand the importance of the project and they like to see what will be done with purchases. Ms. Tardiff stated that the Commission should do a follow up report and present it again to Council once the project is finalized.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the process of land acquisitions and the public notification process and whether the Commission should go beyond the RSA requirements.

Ms. Tardiff and Mr. Lewis will look into this item further.

b. *Solar*

Councilor Todd provided an overview of the Council meeting relative to the Solar Ordinance Public Hearing. Council voted to table this item. Ms. Fenstermacher stated that staff will be regrouping to continue discussions for the solar ordinance. She will likely bring a proposal back to the Commission in July or August.

7. Follow-up/On-going Items:

a. *Update Bylaws*

A draft of the revised by-laws was reviewed. Amendments were suggested. This item was continued to the next meeting.

b. *Easement Enforcement Policy* - continued to future meeting

c. *Conservation Easement Standard Templates* - continued to future meeting

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

June 12, 2019, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 41 Green Street

8. Other Business

a. Devoid project, Little Pond Road

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that this project is pending the appraisal.

b. Murray project, Oak Hill Road

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the title search was received today.

c. Merrimack River Greenway Trail

Members discussed the value of the Commission becoming a partner in this project. Mr. Lewis provided an overview map of the existing rail parcels between Horseshoe Pond and the Boscawen town line.

Mr. Lewis will pull together additional information for further discussion. Councilor Todd recommended that this item remain on the agenda as an ongoing item for next month.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Lewis made a motion, second by Ms. Healy, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Administrative Specialist