

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

July 10, 2019, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 41 Green Street

The Concord Conservation Commission (CCC) held its regular monthly meeting on July 10, 2019 in the 2nd floor conference room at 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Chair Kristine Tardiff, Chris Kane, Rick Chormann, Tracey Boisvert, and Jeff Lewis.

Absent: Vice-Chair Jim Owers, Councilor Brent Todd, Members Kathy Healy, Alternate Jan McClure, and Alternate Stefan Matlage.

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

June 12, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Chormann, to approve the June 12, 2019 minutes, as written. The motion passed unanimously.

May 8, 2019

The May 8, 2019 minutes were postponed to later in the meeting.

2. Travis Roy, 142 Sewalls Falls Road, to discuss terms of existing Conservation easement on his property.

Mr. Roy met with the Commission to discuss the existing Conservation easement on his property at 142 Sewalls Falls Road. He is requesting to add a fenced in dog pen in the easement area within 8-10 feet of the stream. The property area was reviewed along with the 1987 easement language, which states that no lot owner shall construct any structure within the easement of any sort. Mr. Roy stated that the he would not be changing any vegetation. He also noted that the stream has actually moved.

After some discussion regarding the easement language and structures, the consensus of the Commission was that there should not be anything placed within the easement.

7. Follow-up/On-going Items:

a. Education Outreach – ConcordTV

A discussion was held last month regarding doing some education and outreach for the community to highlight accomplishments and goals of the Conservation Commission. Mike O’Meara, city liaison to ConcordTV met with the Commission to discuss doing three to four public service announcements (PSA) for the Commission. The PSA’s could be short films for about ten minutes long or longer that would explain what the Conservation Commission does, their goals, and focusing on different types of conservation areas including agriculture, wetlands, and forest management.

Ms. Fenstermacher will work with Stefanie Breton, the City’s Public Information Officer, to draft up a few scripts for members and will work out additional details.

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

July 10, 2019, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 41 Green Street

May 8, 2019

A discussion was held regarding the May 8 minutes Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge spoke to the comments made by Mr. Owers during the public hearing, and they feel these are important to include in the minutes as his statement regarding the parking lot changed their testimony to City Council.

Ms. Tardiff explained that the Commission's minutes are not intended to be verbatim. Commission members share their individual views and statements, which is how the commission makes a decision. Ms. Tardiff clarified that Mr. Owers' statement was not a decision made by the Commission and the parking lot could be brought up for further discussion in the future.

The minutes were tabled to next month.

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 continued trail maintenance and noted that the bridge at Bachelder Mill was replaced. The signs at the Oak Hill Trail have also been replaced.

There will be no August Trails meeting.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that as a result of the discussion from last month's trail and conservation meeting regarding closing trails, there will be a site walk held tomorrow morning at Healy Park and the Merrimack River Trails.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that a site walk was done at the West End Farm Trail by herself and the Deputy City Solicitor. She explained that Mr. Woodard is open to discussing an agreement; she is trying to get a meeting with Rebecca Ross and Mr. Woodard within the next few weeks.

Additional signage will be added at other trail junctions in the area to assist with re-routing trail users in hopes of reducing the trespassing on Mr. Woodard's property.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that a granite bench has been donated for the Oak Hill Trail in remembrance of Brendan Cahill. A sign has also been ordered. The existing wooden bench will be relocated.

b. Forestry

The Forester's report was circulated.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she will send out a doodle poll to members to set up a time to view the Broken Ground area for a future timber sale.

c. Concord Tree Committee

Ms. Fenstermacher reported that the Committee is continuing to work on the scope for the tree inventory and the next meeting will be on the 19th.

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

July 10, 2019, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 41 Green Street

d. Local River Advisory Committees

Nothing new to report.

5. City Open Space

a. Dimond Hill Farm – Amendments to Partner Agreement

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she and Mr. Lewis met with the conservation partners of the Dimond Hill Farm on July 2. She explained that there was an agreement created between the partners and Equity Trust, the fee holder, to share responsibilities for the preservation of the Farm to continue as a working farm, and to preserve the agricultural and historic nature of the Farm. Discussions were held at the partner meeting relative to the need for funding in order to preserve the Farm and the partners are looking for revenue sources to somehow subsidize the farming with donors, fundraising events, etc. At this time the partners are working on the agreement language to restructure how money is allocated for stewardship of the property, and to potentially use a portion of stewardship funds for roof repairs.

After discussion, the Commission agreed that it is important to preserve the Farm and supports the suggestions; however, may not assist with the projects or events.

The item will remain on the agenda for further follow up once the revised agreement language is provided by Equity Trust.

6. City Council/Planning Board

Solar Ordinance

Ms. Fenstermacher explained that as the solar ordinance was tabled by City Council, the Planning Department will be presenting another option to Council. The proposal will now include a 50 acre cap rather than 25 acres, which is what the Energy Committee recommended.

Discussion ensued regarding impacts to the lands and clear cutting and if the Commission would want to send a letter to Council expressing concerns with the new cap.

Code Update

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Code Update continues. Code Studio, the vendor, was here and there were many sessions held for the public. Some Commission members participated. Code Studio will continue to work on the rewrite and will be returning in the fall.

7. Follow-up/On-going Items:

a. Update Bylaws

Ms. Tardiff will be submitting revisions to staff. This item was continued to the next meeting.

b. Merrimack River Greenway Trail

Mr. Lewis provided an overview map of the existing rail parcels between Horseshoe Pond and the Boscawen town line. He will continue to pull together additional information for further discussion. This item will remain on the agenda.

c. Public Notice Policy - continued to future meeting

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

July 10, 2019, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 41 Green Street

d. Easement Enforcement Policy - continued to future meeting

e. Conservation Easement Standard Templates - continued to future meeting

8. Other Business

Karner Blue Conservation Area Site Walk

Mr. Kane stated that he will follow up with Ms. Holman from NH Fish & Game and try to get a date for a site walk for the easement area at the airport.

FEMA

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that FEMA is presenting the updated draft flood insurance rate maps at an upcoming meeting on July 17th. She will be attending along with staff from the Engineering Division. She encouraged other members to attend.

Society of Soil Scientists

Ms. Fenstermacher stated the Society of Soil Scientists will be hosting a workshop August 22 at Broken Ground under the previous agreement with the Commission to host these annual workshops on conservation land.

Country Hill Estates

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the deed is being created and then it will be reviewed by the Attorney General's office. The baseline report will be done and the closing should be in September.

Devoid Property

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Mr. Owers met with the appraiser and the appraisal should be completed next week. This will be an item on the August agenda.

Murray Property

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the title opinion has been received. The purchase and sales agreement is being drawn up and the closing should be within the next few weeks.

Northern Pass

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that there is nothing new to update at this time, still awaiting the decision from the NH Supreme Court.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Lewis made a motion, second by Ms. Boisvert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Administrative Specialist