

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monday, June 8, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Cindy Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Present: Cindy Robertson-Chair, David Ross-Vice Chair, JoCarol Woodburn-Member, Deborah Miville-Member, Robert Better-Alternate, William Herlicka- Alternate

Not Present: David Hess-Alternate, Phil Fitanides-Member, John Pieroni-Alternate

Staff: Leann Fuller, Administrative Assistant

I. Consent Agenda

- i. SPNHF Reminder letter of Easement limitations
- ii. Wetlands Best Management
- iii. Forest Notes

JoCarol Woodburn motioned to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by Deborah Miville.

Roll Call:

D. Ross- Yes

J. Woodburn- Yes

D. Miville- Yes

C. Robertson- Yes

Motion passed.

II. Meeting Minutes Approvals

- May 11, 2020

David Ross motioned to approve the meeting minutes from May 11, 2020, seconded by Deborah Miville.

Roll Call:

D. Ross- Yes

J. Woodburn- Yes

D. Miville- Yes

C. Robertson- Yes

Motion passed.

III. Appointments

- i. **Jon Rokeh, Rokeh Consulting**
Hemlock Hill Estates open space acquisition

46 Jon Rokeh reviewed the history of the project. This is a project that was formerly known as Ravenwood dating
47 back to 2005. Originally, the plan came in as a 40 lot open space subdivision. In 2007, the ZBA issued a special
48 exception for wetland impacts for the roadway development. Jon took the same plan, left the roadway layout
49 the same and updated and removed 3 lots. They also reduced wetland impact area and reduced the number
50 of lots to 37 lots per the Town of Hooksett regulations. They have completed the State of NH Alteration of
51 Terrain permit application and wetland application. There was an extensive plan review process with Bruce
52 Thomas. Bruce did issue a completed sign off letter before the final Planning Board meeting. Jon has
53 addressed all of Kim Tuttle's concerns for the State of NH. The last item that Kim request is the final ownership
54 of open space. A Homeowners association will be in place for this development to maintain the open space,
55 drainage, and recreational areas. The open space ownership can be included in its entirety to the
56 Homeowners Association unless the Conservation Commission would like to take ownership of the Open
57 Space with the Homeowners Association maintaining it.

58
59 Cindy Robertson asked how many acres of open space is there?

60
61 Jon Rokeh stated there is almost 70 acres. 62 acres is untouched area and about 4 ½ acres is disturbed by
62 detention ponds. There are detention ponds and 10' wide gravel access ways to the detention ponds for
63 maintenance. The 70 acres are not one contiguous lot, they are on the exterior of the project.

64
65 Cindy Robertson asked if the homeowners each own an interest in the open space.

66
67 Jon Rokeh clarified that is what they are setting up. If the Conservation Commission is interested in taking over
68 the ownership of then they would set it up so the Homeowners Association would manage and maintain the
69 detention facilities, gravel roads and picnic areas but restricted to only that and no ownership of those areas.

70
71 Cindy Robertson asked if any mitigation fees were paid to DES?

72
73 Jon Rokeh replied that this project does not rise to mitigation level.

74
75 Cindy Robertson asked if the Conservation Commission did not get involved, do they have another plan?

76
77 Jon Rokeh said that they have an Open Space conservation easement that was used on a previous project that
78 the state has reviewed and approved. No matter, the Homeowners Association will take care of the detention
79 facilities.

80
81 Cindy Robertson mentioned that Wetland Buffer Markers are required.

82
83 Jon Rokeh mentioned that the developer will handle that. That is part of the Town approval.

84
85 Cindy Robertson reiterated that Manchester Water Works had a request for a town easement.

86
87 Jon Rokeh clarified that there is a walking path that cuts across the bottom corner of the parcel. It will not
88 affect any of this project. We could do an easement. Bob Kilmer with Sanford Surveying could add something
89 on the existing plans showing the trail and an easement to the town.

90
91 David Ross expressed his concern that the Conservation Commission conserves large plots of land where this
92 property is just the circumference of the development with no real benefit.

93
94 Cindy Robertson agrees with David. Cindy is happy to hear this is an open space plan and that they are willing
95 to give the town an easement per Manchester Water Works request.
96

97 Jon Rokeh clarified that the State of NH wanted to have something in records that this was discussed, and the
98 State is fine either way.
99

100 JoCarol Woodburn stated that the Conservation Commission has a responsibility to monitor easements and
101 she finds this difficult to get around and monitor this property with private property backed up to the
102 conservation land.
103

104 ***David Ross made a motion to express that the Conservation Commission has no interest in acquiring any of***
105 ***the open space properties within this development, seconded by Deborah Miville.***
106

107 ***Roll Call:***

108 ***D. Ross- Yes***

109 ***J. Woodburn- Yes***

110 ***D. Miville- Yes***

111 ***C. Robertson- Yes***
112

113 ***Motion passed.***
114

115 i. **Arianna Stoke, Native Plant Trust**

116 Wild Lupine on Merrimack Riverwalk Trail
117

118 Arianna Stoke is part of the Native Plant Trust out of Framingham, MA. They are devoted to conserving native
119 plants. They administer the New England Plant Conservation Program and monitor endangered plant species.
120 They train Plant Conservation Volunteers to work with other state agencies across New England to update
121 records of rare and protected species across New England. There are thousands of records in our database
122 that New England states shared with to monitor populations. They identify about 1,500 endangered plant
123 species every year from surveys. Wild Lupine has been located on the rail trail and is requesting permission to
124 go and survey that species. The data will be held in their database and will be held with the NH Natural
125 Heritage Program, but it is not public as it is a protected plant. This plant is important because it also hosts
126 larvae for the Karner Blue Butterfly. The caterpillar only eats Wild Lupine.
127

128 Cindy Robertson asked if Arianna had a sense of where along the trail the plants are located?
129

130 Arianna stated that she does not have any information. Her supervisor can forward that information but again,
131 it is not public information.
132

133 Robert Better would like to follow along on the survey and Cindy would as well.
134

135 Steve Couture mentioned that from the map, it looks like it's the Heritage Rail Trail, not the Merrimack
136 Riverwalk Trail. That stretch is down by Manchester Sand & Gravel property.
137

138 David Ross thought that it would be important to know where the areas are. Perhaps there is something the
139 Conservation Commission can do to try to protect these endangered plants. If this is public property, owner
140 permission is not required to observe the plant species.

141
142 Arianna said that they try to obtain landowner permission. She will provide a more specific location via email.
143 Please keep confidential as it is from State of NH for protected species.

144
145 Cindy Robertson mentioned that she is not sure if the Conservation Commission has control of this property
146 but will do whatever they can to assist.

147
148 David Ross mentioned that the property in question is being discusses for some develop in the future possibly
149 a pavilion. It is important and timely to find out where these species are located.

150
151 **IV. Invoices**

- 152
153 i. Bear-Paw March 2020 Stewardship Invoice \$487.50

154
155 ***David Ross motioned to approve the Bear-Paw March 2020 Stewardship invoice #10205 for \$487.50 to come***
156 ***from the Conservation fund, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn.***

157
158 ***Roll Call:***

159 ***D. Ross- Yes***

160 ***J. Woodburn- Yes***

161 ***D. Miville- Yes***

162 ***C. Robertson- Yes***

163
164 ***Motion passed.***

- 165
166 i. Bear-Paw April 2020 Stewardship Invoice \$250.00

167
168 ***David Ross motioned to approve the Bear-Paw April 2020 Stewardship Invoice #10206 for \$250.00, seconded***
169 ***by Deborah Miville.***

170
171 ***Roll Call:***

172 ***D. Ross- Yes***

173 ***J. Woodburn- Yes***

174 ***D. Miville- Yes***

175 ***C. Robertson- Yes***

176
177 ***Motion passed.***

- 178
179 ii. 9 U-Channel Posts (\$33.95 each) \$305.55

180
181 ***Cindy Robertson motioned to approve the purchase of up to 9 U-Channel Posts for a cost of up to \$305.55 for***
182 ***the trail boundary signs, seconded by Deborah Miville.***

183
184 ***Roll Call:***

185 *D. Ross- Yes*
186 *J. Woodburn- Yes*
187 *D. Miville- Yes*
188 *C. Robertson- Yes*

189
190 *Motion passed.*

191
192 **V. Other business: Projects, Invoices, Etc.**

- 193 i. FY 2021-2022 Budget and Warrant Articles

194
195 The Conservation Commission budget does include \$125 scholarship line, but Cindy mentioned it has been
196 several years since sending any child to camp. Bill Herlicka mentioned that \$125 is very minimal to send a child
197 to camp. Cindy stated that this should be looked at again if someone would like to take on the application and
198 review process.

199
200 *Cindy Robertson made a motion to approve the budget amount of \$1,817 for the budget year of 2021-2022,*
201 *seconded by David Ross.*

202
203 *Roll Call:*

204 *D. Ross- Yes*
205 *J. Woodburn- Yes*
206 *D. Miville- Yes*
207 *C. Robertson- Yes*

208
209 *Motion passed.*

- 210
211 ii. Next steps for the Stewardship Plan
212 i. School Board Meeting June 16
213 ii. Public Hearing August 10 following ConComm meeting

214
215 Cindy Robertson will be attending the June 16 School Board meeting. They own one piece of the property
216 discussed in the Stewardship plan and requested continued input. Swift and/or Jeff will be in attendance as
217 well. After that, there will be a public meeting to allow the public to weigh in.

218
219 JoCarol Woodburn reminded the Conservation Commission that there was a public meeting for the Clay Pond
220 Stewardship Plan and about 40 people came out. Jeff and Swift put on a slideshow and a flyer was created to
221 advertise the event.

222
223 Cindy Robertson believes the library is less formal.

224
225 David Ross suspects there will be interest from the public especially since the school property is involved.

226
227 JoCarol Woodburn asked if there is a name for this area. It is referred to by four different property names.

228
229 Cindy Robertson stated there is not a name right now but that should be thought about.

230
231 Bill Herlicka was not convinced that one name was appropriate as it implies it is one piece of property.

232
233 Cindy Robertson stated that there is one plan that covers all properties. That stewardship plans encompasses
234 all four. Each property has its own uniqueness and will be developed and look at it.

235
236 JoCarol Woodburn suggested Head's Pond Conservation Area. She also requested that the Conservation
237 Commission send her ideas and she will compile a list.

238
239 iii. Student Conservation Association, Inc. Project Update
240

241 Cindy Robertson updated the Conservation Commission that this work has been put on hold due to COVID-19.
242 They requested to complete this work next summer. This will have to go back in front of Town Council again.
243 Nothing will change as it will still be the Merrimack Trail by the river and the Pinnacle trail.

244
245 There was discussion whether the Conservation Commission could find another entity that may be able to
246 complete these tasks this year. Cindy Robertson will speak with John Pieroni who was doing some trail work
247 for Kiwanis and see if they are interested at all.

248
249 iv. Merrimack Riverwalk Trail Beaver Dam, "End of Trail" sign, RTP Grant & Survey for Phase III
250

251 Cindy Robertson mentioned the flooding on the Merrimack Riverwalk Trail. From what DPW and the Town
252 Engineer can tell, it is caused by beavers. Removal of the beavers will only be a temporary fix. DPW receives a
253 cost estimate to put in a beaver pipe system which is supposed to permanently solve the damming issue
254 without having to trap the beavers. The cost is \$1,690.

255
256 JoCarol Woodburn asked if this would affect the trail work Dan Tatem is working on.

257
258 Cindy Robertson stated that Dan is aware of the flooding.

259
260 David Ross expressed his concern with any type of culvert. Beavers are an ongoing problem. Moving them is a
261 better idea in David's opinion. The goal is to preserve the land and maintain it in its most natural state.

262
263 Cindy Robertson disagrees with David. Cindy's opinion is based off the email received from Mark Ravenelle
264 which says it is a permanent solution for high water levels. Cindy believes these beavers will cause a
265 reoccurring issue as they will keep coming back.

266
267 Bill Herlicka would be inclined to install the pipe. Nature is a great thing. Kids are amazing by beavers. Those
268 pipes are designed to keep a certain amount of water flowing.

269
270 David Ross does not agree with encouraging the beavers to reproduce in this area. They create flooding
271 opportunities.

272
273 Deborah Miville had a question related to Dave's point of view. What happens when there are more beavers?
274

275 Cindy Robertson stated that there will still be a cost to remove the beavers and take the dam down.

276
277 JoCarol Woodburn recommended moving forward with the pipe and if there is still a problem then bring in
278 beaver removal.

279
280 Deborah Miville asked what the mating season is for beavers.

281
282 Bill Herlicka found that Beavers mate from January to March.

283
284 ***Cindy Robertson made a motion to approve the design, furnishing, construction and installation of a beaver***
285 ***pipe system in at the beaver dam on the Merrimack Riverwalk Trail for \$1,690 as round I, if that fails, then***
286 ***we come back and reassess, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn.***

287
288 ***Roll Call:***

289 ***D. Ross- Yes***

290 ***J. Woodburn- Yes***

291 ***D. Miville- Yes***

292 ***C. Robertson- Yes***

293
294 ***Motion passed.***

295
296 Cindy Robertson moved onto the signs for the Conservation Boundary signs for the Merrimack Riverwalk Trail.
297 Leann received a call from the Allenstown abutter that people are trespassing on their property. They did try
298 to put up a private property sign, but they were torn down. DPW will need to know where to install them.
299 Phase III will be starting at some point and some signs can be used for that.

300
301 David Ross recommended putting signs once you are across the wooden bridge, so it creates a boundary line.
302 David also mentioned putting signs on potential access point off Merrimack Street.

303
304 Cindy Robertson stated there is a gate located at the only entrance. Cindy is inclined to put two signs up right
305 now including at the Allenstown line. Then use the remaining sign for the Phase III and possible on the
306 Pinnacle trail. A different sign can be created for points off Merrimack Street.

307
308 JoCarol Woodburn updated the Conservation Commission on the status of the RTP Grant. 5 letters of support
309 have been requested. 4 out of 5 have been received. The only one left is from SNHPF. All maps are completed
310 which Bruce Thomas has assisted with. Dan Tatem is working on the survey to move the trail. The application
311 is 28 pages long. Dan Tatem has completed a lot of work including estimates and construction costs. The
312 deadline is June 19 and the request is for \$80,000. JoCarol did mention that that the decision will not be made
313 until the fall and match will have to be provided.

314
315 Cindy Robertson did go in front of the CIP Committee regarding the warrant article and they are aware that
316 the Conservation Commission is looking into other funding sources.

317
318 v. Conservation Commission Member Update to NHACC

319
320 Leann received an email forwarded from Deborah Miville with a request from NHACC to update their
321 Conservation Commission member list. They are looking for emails and Leann wanted to check with everyone
322 to see if they are ok with Leann providing those to NHACC. Cindy Robertson, David Ross, Bill Herlicka, Bob
323 Better and JoCarol Woodburn are all fine with their emails being provided.

326 vi. Donation from the Rice Family Charitable Trust

327
328 **Deborah Miville motioned to accept the \$500.00 donation from the Rice Family Charitable Trust and send a**
329 **thank you letter, seconded by Cindy Robertson.**

330 **Roll Call:**

331 **D. Ross- Yes**

332 **J. Woodburn- Yes**

333 **D. Miville- Yes**

334 **C. Robertson- Yes**

335
336 **Motion passed.**

337
338 vii. Pleasant Street Abutters to Heads Pond Trail

339
340 Leann received an email regarding yard waste being dumped over an embankment that could potentially
341 interfere with drainage for the Head's Pond trail. Residents are allowed to dump on their own property, but it
342 could wash down and cause further issues.

343
344 David Ross recommended that the Conservation Commission send a letter kindly requesting their attention to
345 a potential issue.

346
347 Bob Better mentioned that there are laws that are on the books that indicate that if the town did this, they
348 would be responsible. Therefore, he believes there is a law that would indicate if a property owner destroys
349 public land, they would be responsible.

350
351 Cindy Robertson will draft a letter to the abutter bringing attention to the potential issue.

352
353 Bob Better wanted to mention that over the course of the last 3 months, he has been doing a lot of hiking. The
354 City of Concord hiking trails have a lot of good messages in their trail descriptions and information online.

355
356 Cindy Robertson thanked Bob for bringing up a great topic. Since the Conservation Commission has focused on
357 purchasing property in the past, it may be best to continue focusing on getting trails developed. Everyone
358 should take notes on places they have visited and what they liked about it.

359
360 **Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn, seconded by David Ross. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.**

361
362 **Roll Call:**

363 **D. Ross- Yes**

364 **J. Woodburn- Yes**

365 **D. Miville- Yes**

366 **C. Robertson- Yes**

367
368 **Motion passed.**

369
370
371 **Minutes respectively submitted by**

373
374
375
376
377

Leann Fuller
Administrative Assistant

Please see subsequent meeting minutes for any amendments to these minutes.