

TOWN OF BEDFORD
June 28, 2016
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Beth Evarts (Chairwoman), Dave Gilbert (Town Council Alternate), Phil Cote (Planning Board Liaison), James Drake, Tom Sauser, Lisa Kammer (Alternate), Jonathan Benjamin (Alternate), Dave Gambaccini (Alternate), and Karin Elmer (Planner 1)

Chairwoman Evarts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced members of the Commission. Town Councilor Jim Aguiar, regular members Michelle Salvatore and Sarah Thomas were absent.

Dredge and Fill Applications:

- None

Old Business:

- Update on Sebbins Pond lot abutter encroachments

Ms. Elmer stated the Town's Attorney, the Bedford Land Trust's Attorney and the owner are working on a license agreement. Right now the treehouse that is over the lot line had columns on Town-owned land. He is going to be removing the columns and rebracing it so that nothing touches the conservation land. The treehouse will hang over the conservation land and that is what the license agreement will cover. I will let you know when that is done. Also, he will not be mowing any of the conservation land areas.

New Business:

- Chairwoman's update

No update available.

- Review of proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure, Article 10, Section G, Agenda deadlines.

Ms. Elmer stated in our Rules of Procedure we have a requirement that the agenda close seven days prior to the meeting date. We are proposing to lengthen the amount of time applications are required to be delivered before they get placed on the agenda. Extending that time gives me time to do all the work that I need to complete before putting the packets in the mail and posting the agenda. If the Commission supports this change, I will schedule a public hearing on the agenda for the next Conservation Commission meeting and post the notice in the newspaper.

MOTION by Mr. Drake that the Conservation Commission hold a public hearing at the next Conservation Commission meeting to review changes to the Rules of Procedure, Article 10, Section G, Agenda Deadlines. Mr. Cote duly seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.

Reports of Committees:

- Update on Heritage Trail Grant work

Mr. Sauser stated with us this evening is Brian Harjula, who was instrumental in the design and installation of the Scott Road nature trail bridge. He has put together a recommended design for the bridge over the wetlands on the Heritage Trail.

Mr. Harjula stated I have been working for about 10 years with the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails to secure funding for grants and RTP funding for trail maintenance, trail building upgrades, as well as trail additions. The Heritage Trail bridge is an excellent project as I have witnessed that the trail is widely used.

Mr. Harjula reviewed a slideshow of the construction and completion of the Ash Bog bridge. He stated I am proposing to use the same materials that were used on the Ash Bog bridge, which would be the same kind of steel span across 25 feet of wetlands, as well as a short ramp to make up the elevation, and it will probably have a small grade on the southern end. The northern end will be set on three sonnet tube piers and then there will be a short ramp of 8 to 10 feet downhill. The proposed bridge will be 57 inches wide with 4 foot railings. This width still allows for ATV access for rescue purposes by the Fire Department but it is not wide enough for a vehicle to access. The life span of the bridge is 20+ years easily. Our goal is to meet ADA compliance access to the bridge and we can make up the grade in the bridge.

Ms. Elmer stated we are at the point where we have to put the steel beams out to bid. Mr. Harjula stated I spoke to the steel vendor from two years ago and he said that the price of steel has not changed much. Mr. Sauser stated I have the names of 3 – 4 steel suppliers. The RFP will also include the delivery and installation service of the steel beams.

Mr. Sauser stated also, we are still working to get approval for the staging area, and Ms. Elmer has made some progress with that. Another outstanding item is with regard to assurance that construction of the bridge will not interfere with EverSource's line maintenance. Ms. Elmer stated Ms. Salvatore and I are trying to reach someone at EverSource but have not been successful up to

this point. Mr. Sauser stated we have been working with the Boy Scouts and it looks like we have a nominee and I will be working with them. I will update the Commission in the near future.

MOTION by Mr. Cote that the Conservation Commission move forward with the bridge design for the Heritage Trail project as presented by Brian Harjula. Mr. Drake duly seconded the motion. Vote take – all in favor. Motion carried.

- Update on Pulpit Rock Trail Grant

No update available.

Enclosures:

- A Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management

Ms. Elmer stated this is another brochure from NH DES for your tool kit, which is geared specifically toward shoreland, but these concepts cover any kind of stormwater designs, issues or runoff.

Additional Comments:

Mr. Drake stated the Pulpit Rock Subcommittee met and we divvied up the responsibility for rewriting the master plan. I will keep the Commission updated.

Mr. Drake asked have you found out any further information about the survey of the Joppa Hill conservation land that we voted to fund in the past? Ms. Elmer replied the Town is going to end up doing the work. The Public Works Department has surveyors on staff and we are trying to see if we can piggyback on them or if we have to put it out to bid separately. I am looking into that now. This would not just be for the one piece; we want to get them all done.

Mr. Drake asked do you have an update on monitoring services of conservation land from an outside consultant? Ms. Elmer replied I will have quotes for you at the next meeting. There is a person that specializes in this type of work and we may be able to hire them because of the specialized work. Mr. Drake asked could a small amount of that work be diverted to Pulpit Rock? Ms. Elmer replied absolutely.

Ms. Elmer stated I have distributed to you a copy of a write-up in the *Union Leader* of the McQuesten Brook daylighting project.

Ms. Elmer stated we are sharing a summer intern with the Public Works Department. The map I distributed to you this evening was created by him with some rudimentary information for conservation land types that we have. He is going to get all of the properties mapped out this summer. We can then create a layer on the Town's GIS maps and you will be able to click on the

properties so you can see all the details of that particular piece of land. As the years go by, the trail maps can be uploaded to show those. So hopefully the intern might have all of this done by the end of the summer.

Ms. Elmer stated Chris Wells of the Piscataquog Land Conservancy, with regard to the Florence Tarr Trust easement funding, is not ready with his information yet. As soon as he gets the report from the State for the monies that can be used, he will let me know.

Approval of Minutes:

- May 24, 2016

MOTION by Mr. Drake to approve the May 24, 2016 Conservation Commission minutes as written. Mr. Sauser duly seconded the motion. Vote taken; motion carried, with Councilor Gilbert abstaining.

Non-public Session: None

Adjournment:

MOTION by Mr. Drake to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Mr. Sauser duly seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Valerie J. Emmons