

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
March 26, 2019**

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH.

Present: Mac McMahan (Planning Board Representative), Dave Gambaccini, Maggie Wachs, Bob MacPherson, Denise Ricciardi (Town Council) Bill Carter, Karin Elmer (Planner I.)

Absent: Beth Evarts (Chairwoman), James Drake (Vice-Chairman), Catherine Rombeau (Town Council Alternate)

In Chairwoman Evarts absence, Mr. Gambaccini chaired the meeting, and opened the meeting at 7:04 PM.

Mr. Gambaccini reminded the general public that the role of the Conservation Commission is to serve as a non-voting board serving in an advisory capacity by making recommendations to the other voting Boards. The voting boards take the Conservation Commission's recommendations on dredge and fill permits and other work in or near wetlands (for example on pools, and crossing over wetlands), and the preservation of wetlands into consideration when voting.

Approval of Minutes:

- December 10, 2018

MOTION by Mr. Carter to approve the December 10, 2018 minutes. Mr. McMahan seconded the motion. 2 abstentions: Mr. MacPherson & Ms. Ricciardi. Vote taken –All others in favor. Motion carried.

- January 29, 2019 Conservation Commission Workshop minutes

MOTION by Mr. McMahan to approve the January 29, 2019 Conservation Commission workshop minutes. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. 2 abstentions: Mr. MacPherson & Ms. Ricciardi. Vote taken –All others in favor. Motion carried.

Dredge and Fill Applications:

- **Town of Bedford** - Permit to fill approximately 5,169 SF of wetlands to address deficient roadway geometry and improve traffic flow at the Town of Bedford Transfer Station located on Chubbuck Rd., Lot 8-4.
The Town is proposing to fill approximately 5,169 SF of wetlands to address deficient roadway geometry and improve traffic flow at the Town of Bedford Transfer Station located on Chubbuck Rd. The proposed project involves relocating approximately 1,000 feet of roadway and is needed to address deficient roadway geometry and improve traffic

flow and safety. The current entrance is narrow with sharp curves and steep grades. In order to adequately address the concerns regarding existing roadway geometry, grades, and traffic flow, a new roadway alignment is necessary.

The proposed stream crossing will maintain hydrologic and aquatic organism passage.

Jeff Foote of the Public Works Department and Christine Perron, Certified Wetlands Scientist, with MacFarland Johnson provided an overview of the project. The project is a proposed realignment of a portion of Chubbuck Rd. The access road to the transfer station is a narrow roadway with sharp curves and steep grades. These create site distance concerns, and the access into the transfer station has undesirable traffic flows as currently laid out. The proposed project will realign approximately 1,000 feet of roadway at the end of Chubbuck Road leading into the transfer station and relocate the scale house to eliminate sharp curves at the entrance, reduce roadway grade leading into the transfer station, and improve traffic flow by providing greater separation of traffic entering and exiting the transfer station.

Ms. Perron shared an aerial view of the site showing the footprint of the proposed realignment. There is an intermittent stream that runs through the project area and a fringed wetland on either side of the intermittent stream. The intermittent stream currently goes under Chubbuck Road through a 15-inch culvert and eventually outlets into a large wetlands system located a little over 300 feet downstream from Chubbuck Road. That wetlands system is designated by the Town as a wetland of exceptional value.

Ms. Perron shared a plan view from the permit application (wetland impact plans). Permanent impact to wetlands were indicated. The proposed realignment will cross the stream just upstream from the existing Chubbuck Road crossing. The stream will be carried through a 24-inch culvert which has been sized to pass a 50-year storm event. The project proposes underdrain on the upslope side of the roadway. Throughout construction silt fence and other erosion control will be used.

Ms. Perron reviewed the wetland impact. The permanent impacts from the project will be 4,955 square feet, and much of that is to the forested wetlands (4,462 square feet). The intermittent stream is about 493 square feet/108 linear feet of impact from the proposed culvert.

The project will result in a net increase in impervious surface area of about 23,000 square feet which will be somewhat countered by the removal of the pavement from the existing alignment of Chubbuck Road. The pavement will be removed. The roadbed will remain in place but will no longer be maintained as a roadway. The stream crossing is a Tier 1 stream crossing under the DES stream crossing rules which will make this project a minor impact permit.

Other resource considerations:

Wetlands of Exceptional value – none in project area

Rare species – no known rare species in vicinity of project

Protected shoreland – none in the project area
Floodway/floodplain – none in the project area
Historic resources – NHDHR has no concerns with the project

Mr. Carter asked if going from a 15 inch to 24-inch culvert is sufficient in that area even though it says it's a 50-year flood zone and asked if Ms. Perron feels it should be any larger than 24 inches.

Ms. Perron explained that a hydraulic analysis was done and 24 inches was the size that was recommended after analysis was completed for a 50-year storm. Since the water flow in the 24-inch culvert will be quicker, Mr. Carter asked if any treatment would be done to make sure we are not disturbing the wetlands of exceptional value located 300 feet away. Ms. Perron indicated there is no formal treatment proposed at this time. There will be run-off that continues to sheet flow off the roadway. All of the run-off will be captured in the drainage system, so the run-off that is sheet flowing will continue to be naturally treated by the existing vegetation that is out there.

Mr. MacPherson indicated that #11 on the application discusses abutters and indicates that the project is not anticipated to impact abutting private property owners. He asked if the abutting property owners had been advised of this and asked if anyone had voiced any concerns. Ms. Perron had received no concerns and Mr. Foote walked the site with the closest abutting neighbor last Friday, March 22, 2019. During the site walk he showed the abutting neighbors where the proposed scale house was going to be located and indicated a rough elevation of where it would be. He informed the neighbors that the roadway would be moved further away from their house, and that the scale house will be higher than the existing road, so they should see less folks and fewer headlights. He noted the transfer station is typically open late one day per week on Thursday during dark hours and headlights are in no way directed at any dwelling on Chubbuck Road. He indicated there was concern about overhead lights. He did not make any promises but told the homeowners that they would do their best to direct the light away from their houses toward the scale house and the hill on the northerly side of Chubbuck Road. He indicated there were concerns about wetlands, so they walked the area and the neighbors seemed to have a level of comfort with what they were proposing. Mr. Foote believes that homeowner was in contact with some of the other neighbors and he has not heard any other concerns from anyone, so he is assuming they are satisfied with what has been proposed for the project.

Mr. MacPherson wanted to know how far back the project is set from nearby Riddle Brook. Ms. Perron indicated it was quite a distance, and Mr. Foote estimated it was about 400-500 feet away. Mr. MacPherson seemed satisfied that the distance was sufficient. Ms. Perron showed how far away Riddle Brook was on the aerial view of the project. Mr. Foote indicated that Riddle Brook travels under Magazine Street and does travel toward the project. He indicated the closest point of the brook's flow on the aerial view of the project. Ms. Ricciardi asked for confirmation that the proposed work would not affect the premium wetlands at all. Going back to the discussion about the 24-inch pipe, Mr. Foote indicated that there is a pipe that currently crosses Chubbuck Road that is either the same size or smaller than what they are proposing, so that would temper any increase that would be realized into the area.

Mr. Carter asked with the increased elevation if there would be more water from the transfer station coming down the road causing any concern to anything below it before it is able to reach the culvert. Mr. Foote explained that they are not adding water from anywhere. The water from the transfer station today makes a quicker route from the paved area where the recycling center is and goes down over the hill at an 8 or 9% percent grade. When you make the right to go up into the transfer station that is a steeper grade so he estimates that the water coming down over the hill is more of a direct route to get to the wetlands than what is being proposed. Ms. Perron indicated her agreement.

Ms. Ricciardi noted that Mr. Foote indicated that he didn't make any promises to the neighbors in regard to the overhead lights, but she re-emphasized that neighbors *cannot* have any bright lights shining directly in their homes. Mr. Foote agrees and indicated that when they were at the site of the proposed scale house he stood in the woods where the scale house is proposed to be located, and he had to look through the woods and to the best of his ability and he could see only a portion of the house with difficulty. This was in March, so his guess is that in the summertime it will be even less so. Ms. Perron indicated that much of the forest in this area is coniferous so that would help shield any light even through the winter. Mr. Foote stated that they are going to do their best to focus the light away from the homeowners and the houses on Magazine Street and will minimize the lighting; however, they do need the area to be secure.

Ms. Wachs asked about the placement of the catch basin and water filtration. Mr. Foote referred to the plan and explained there is a proposed 15-inch pipe crossing with a catch basin on the inlet side which will serve as a way to relieve nuisance water. The water flow is minimal, but they need to relieve it so that it will not create a puddle. The flow is minimal, but the flow is enough to create a nuisance if they were to do nothing and that is why they are proposing a pipe crossing at that location. Ms. Perron indicated there are no jurisdictional wetlands or streams – it is just drainage

Mr. Gambaccini asked about the parking area. Mr. Foote stated the goal is when arriving at the transfer station you will pass the scale house and go up into the facility where the recycling center is and move through the area. The outlet will exit back toward the scale house. What they are proposing to do in regard to the angle parking is to move the area where residents pick

up salt and provide parking spaces in that area. He noted that today if you are driving toward the transfer station there are empty and full box trailers staged there and they propose to move or eliminate the box trailers and widen out the pavement right behind the building where you exit the facility, so the box trailers will be stored further away from the wetlands. Essentially they are trying to make operations more efficient and the scale house is being positioned at the entrance to the facility so they will know who and what is entering and exiting the facility.

Ms. Wachs asked what is the rough size of the scale house compared the current scale house. Mr. Foote stated it will be the same scale house. The size will remain the same. He indicated there were prior issues with non-residents and commercial entities dumping things in the facility for free. With the scale house in the newly proposed location they want to engage people before they dispose of materials and exit the facility. A lot of time has been spent issuing stickers over the past year and doing audits to make sure people coming into the facility were those who *should* be coming into the facility, and this effort will greatly increase their ability to do that.

Mr. Carter asked if there was a designated area for snow. Mr. Foote said that was a great point. He said the road that is a right hook near the utility pole when you go into the facility is approximately 9% and he believes the maximum slope coming up through the area is in the 5% range, so they would be reducing the slope to make it easier to enter the facility in adverse weather conditions. Currently they treat Chubbuck Road and the area going into the facility, and with any luck we would be able to reduce our salt consumption because it will be more traversable than it is today.

Ms. Ricciardi asked if it will be “business as usual” at the transfer station while the work is being completed. Mr. Foote explained the bulk of the work can be completed while the transfer station is open, and at the point when they need to tie it in where the proposed road is coming up into the facility they will need to transition roads. They will also need to transition Chubbuck Road up in toward the scale house, so the goal is to build the middle portion while the transfer station is open. They are still discussing how they will provide service and are thinking it will be similar to what they did in 2013 when they replaced the bridge at Riddle Brook. When that occurred, they closed the transfer station for 1 week and allowed residents to only dispose of their trash and recycling during that 1 week and no other services were provided (such as bulk materials, or waste). He indicated that they think they can do the same thing with this project, and during the 1-week closure period they can clean up the ends and have the facility open in a reasonable amount of time. Ms. Ricciardi indicated that she wanted to make sure that they did not want residents to put their trash somewhere else intermittently. Mr. Foote indicated that in 2013 they set up a temporary area at the highway garage between the salt shed and where the equipment is parked and residents unloaded their vehicles there for 1 week. Very limited service was provided. There was no brush disposal, no metals, no compost, no tires, no appliances. For that week things were kept very basic, but essential services were provided for residents. They are leaning toward doing the same thing; however, this has not been finalized.

Mr. McMahan anticipated questions that might come from the Town and asked if it was all town land. Mr. Foote indicated it was. Mr. McMahan asked if it was already in the budget. Mr. Foote indicated it was. Finally, Mr. McMahan asked if the plan would mesh with any future desires or plans to re-do that entire area. Mr. Foote indicated the short answer is, “yes”, and shared that last summer he visited 10 other transfer stations in Merrimack, New Boston, Hillsborough, Concord, Hooksett, and, and the one commonality of all the facilities is that when you enter the facilities the scale house is the first thing that you see and have to navigate through. This is a mechanism to ensure they know who and what is coming into the facility. No matter what is done in the future, the scale house needs to be moved to the position where it is the first thing people see when entering the transfer station, and not hidden. In summary Mr. McMahan asked if the proposed changes would be better for the Town, more efficient, and people should be happy about this change. Mr. Foote indicated that was correct.

There were no further questions from the Board about the dredge and fill. Mr. Gambaccini opened the floor for questions from residents. Kathleen Bemis of Magazine Street approached the microphone and indicated hers is the closest property to the proposed work area. Last week she and her husband participated in a site walk with Mr. Foote. Her only concerns are the enlargement of the transfer station, and that she would not like to see the transfer station privatized. She does not believe that is the intent at this time. She had concerns about lighting from the weigh station but indicated this had already been discussed during today’s meeting. In general, she feels where the old road is/where the junk collects and the trailers are located today will be moved away from the wetlands and will protect it more than the dredge and fill of one little area that is not very noticeable. She feels hopeful it will be a good thing as long as the operations are never privatized. Mr. Foote stated they have no intention of privatizing the Bedford transfer station

Mr. Gambaccini asked the Board for any recommendations.

MOTION by Mr. Carter to recommend to move the planned project forward to DES for their approval. Ms. Ricciardi seconded the motion. Vote taken –All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. McMahan asked when the project would be start. Mr. Foote stated that they need to find a contractor, and then look at composting in the rear of the facility (similar to what is being done with glass today); and his goal is to have this project completed by August 1, 2019 because they are in the infancy stages of working with the schools on an educational opportunity to introduce children to composting in the Fall, so he would like to have work done by August 1st so something can be in place when school starts and the educational component begins. Nationally 20-30% of municipal solid waste is compostable material – if we could pull out 20-30% it would be incredible, but the goal would be to start with pulling out 5-10% by having people compost. Mr. Foote looked at the numbers, and if the Town was able to pull out 5% it translates to a penny on the tax rate, so if we could pull out 15% it would be \$0.03 on the tax rate. At \$30,000 it is

about \$0.01 on the tax rate. Basically, for every 5% we pull out \$30,000 is saved on transportation of MSW and we are not bringing it to a landfill or incinerator and materials are repurposed and re-used in Bedford.

New Business:

- Screening of Trails of Bedford video

Ms. Elmer stated that Chairwoman Evarts is also a member of Bedford Land Trust and along with BCTV she completed a short half hour video of each of the conservation lands in Bedford providing an introduction, history, and walking conditions (whether or not the trails are easy or difficult). It is located on the town website under the Conservation Commission's section. This evening the audio was not working on the equipment in the meeting room, so the Conservation Commission was not able to view the video; but in the meantime, Ms. Elmer referred them to the link on the Conservation Commission's section of the Town's webpage and invited them to view it, and we will try to screen it again at next month's Conservation Commission meeting.

Old Business:

- Update on Pulpit Rock Trail Grant Project

Ms. Elmer reported that we got the grant extended for one more year. In Spring trail work will continue. Ron will work on recommendations made by the New Hampshire Trails Bureau during the site walk last Fall

- Update on trail mapping project and website update

Ms. Elmer reported that good progress is being made, and the trails that have been marked are continuing to be uploaded to the Trail Finder website. The Trail Finder website is run by a private entity, but anyone is allowed to upload to their site. Eventually all Bedford trails will be uploaded to the Trail Finder site. The site is compatible with cellphones, so if you are out on a trail you could pull up the website on a cellphone. So far the only Bedford trail on the site is the Bedford Heritage Trail. Hopefully by end of summer all the trails of Bedford will be on the Trail Finder website and all of them will also be uploaded onto the Town GIS maps.

- Update on Greenfield Farms boundary marking

Ms. Elmer reported that Ron Klemarczyk from FORECO has been working on the project. Nothing was done during the winter because the boundary markers could not be found in order to post the signs; but he is continuing to work on it and hopes to finish in couple of weeks. She will provide an update once completed.

Enclosures:

- None

Other Business: None

Non-Public Session: None

Adjournment:

MOTION by Mr. Carter to adjourn at 7:43 pm. Ms. Wachs seconded the motion. Vote taken – all in favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be April 30, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Lewis