

Candia Conservation Commission

Approved

Meeting Minutes - May 15, 2007

Present: Chair Ed Fowler, J. Lindsey, E. Kruse, T. Giffen, R. Snow, E. Davidson, D. Lewis, J. Miele. Guests included Dawn Genes from Lamprey River Watershed and Dan Kern from Bear Paw. Others in attendance were Amanda Soares, Rick Lazott and Joe Duarte.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed with changes. Paragraph ten should have the following sentence added to the end: "A motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to reimburse Joe Miele." Paragraph eleven, last sentence should have the following added to the end: "and they are looking for volunteers to help with the study." Paragraph twelve, the twelfth sentence should read: In order to respond to the letter, a motion was made by Dick Snow to commit to a "not to exceed." In paragraph correct the spelling of Moreno. In paragraph sixteen, seventh sentence, deleted the words "we noted that."

Dawn Genes, Executive Vice President with Lamprey River Watershed presented the commission with an opportunity to volunteer for water quality monitoring noting that the sampling season is about to begin. The training session will be held Tuesday, May 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Epping Fire Station. She provided the commission with fliers to post at the library or town hall. Volunteers will be asked to do approximately three rotations once a month. Each volunteer will be supplied with a sampling kit. Volunteers are generally paired up with other experienced people. She is also looking for volunteers to do separate E.coli sampling.

The other topic she discussed was that the Lamprey River Watershed Association had applied for a grant from DES. They proposed that they would use volunteers to walk, canoe, kayak on the Lamprey River taking a visual assessment of erosion, pipes, invasive species, trash, etc. as well as noting what the terrain is behind the river and of the habitat. DES recommended that Lamprey River Watershed begin with a pilot test first and have a part-time person dedicated to the project. This person would collect, detail and assemble the data. She noted they would like to do two small sections of the river in August (a rural section and urban section) to test out protocols. Two possibilities would be the north branch and a section down in Raymond. The Lamprey River Watershed wants to work with each of the towns to help improve the river and the riparian zone. Ed Fowler questioned whether the river is navigable in August, noting the low water. Dawn mentioned that some areas would need to be walked with waders. She asked whether we would like to see all or some on the north branch done for the test. Training would be held in July for volunteers. Dawn can be contacted at www.lrwa-nh.org or by phoning (603) 659-9363. Ed Fowler will be the contact person for the north branch project.

She also noted that June 3 – 10 is National River Clean-Up week. Wadleigh Falls is scheduled for June 3. She noted that the Raymond Rotary club would like to do a clean up on June 9th.

Dan Kern from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways came to the table. Ed Fowler excused himself from the commission. Dan noted that in the beginning of April Ed and Ruth Fowler approached Bear-Paw Regional Greenways. He noted that the Fowlers had decided to place a conservation easement on their 64 acre property, on Palmer Road. Dan noted that Bear-Paw is looking for funding to complete the project. The Fowlers are seeking assistance for \$ 11,550 fees associated with this procedure. For Bear-Paw, Dan noted, there is an interest in the property because it is a very well managed lot with excellent water resources on it. He mentioned that the Department of Fish & Game considered this a high quality wildlife habitat area. He noted that Bear-Paw does not generate enough funding for acquisition costs, and when projects like these arise Bear-Paw goes to different sources for transaction costs.

Tom Giffen asked whether the property abuts the road. Dan noted that using the GIS system, and aerial photography the property does have road frontage. Dan offered to do a site walk to see the property to help members decide whether they would like to fund the project. Dick Snow suggested asking the Kinnicum Rod & Gun Club to see if they would be interested in donating to the funding costs and possibly get matching funds.

Dennis Lewis will contact Mark Trombly from Kinnicum.

Dan noted that most of the expenses for the project are out of pocket. A motion was made by Dick Snow that the Candia Conservation Commission would guarantee not to exceed \$ 11,550 for covering the transaction costs associated with the donation of the conservation easement for the 64 acre property. Seconded by Joe Miele. Elizabeth Kruse and Judi Lindsey recused themselves from the vote There was no discussion. All were in favor. Dan Kern will schedule a site walk and an e-mail will be distributed to members. Ed Fowler was asked to return into the room.

Dan Kern also mentioned the Hooksett project. Bear- Paw is still working with the developer. He noted that the size of the Candia parcel was significantly diminished and is now at approximately 8 acres (the entire project being 280 acres in all). Dan said the project is moving along and noted that it would benefit the town of Candia siting the area near Bear Brook State Park.

Regarding Wetland Permit Applications, a letter was received from DES, regarding the Danais wetland bureau file. DES has approved the application to dredge and fill 31,319 sq. ft. of forested shrub, scrub-shrub wetlands on 14 acres. Dick Snow asked if there was mitigation on this. Ed noted the mitigation was a sum of money which will need to be paid, \$82,438 to the DES Aquatic Resources Mitigation fund. The permit is contingent upon payment. If payment is not received, DES will deny the application. Dick Snow will investigate how the decision was made to allocate this money. Judi Lindsey will discuss with the planning board if they are aware that the mitigation is going to the Merrimack River watershed and not on site. Tom Giffen noted that a revised plan would have had to have been approved and that the Conservation Commission was apparently not made aware of it.

Also another wetlands application was received for a proposed condominium development off of Brown Road, Map 13 , lot 18. This would be a 50- acre parcel of land extending into Auburn. The actual road is approximately half a mile long with five wetland crossings, one of which the owner is proposing to place a box culvert on. It was noted that wetland crossings all seasonally flood. E. Kruse questioned what the road length limit is on cul-de-sacs. Dennis Lewis noted that it is 1000 feet and that the rule is weak. Ed Fowler asked if the planning board has been contacted regarding this site. Ed noted that the wetlands impact is considered a minor impact (with a 7,600 sq. ft. impact). Dick Snow suggested that we decline the opportunity to sign anything and our input would depend upon what the planning board decides to do and the commission has significant concerns about the lengthy driveway. Ed Fowler noted that the letter is for our information. Rick Lazott commented that if this development is mentioned as over 55 it can be called a one-lot subdivision. Ed mentioned we should wait and see how the planning board handles this. Per Joe Duarte, if there are some concerns he will be happy to present them and will address them to the board. Per Ed his biggest concern is whether the culverts will be large enough to accommodate large amounts of water. Betsy Kruse noted that Auburn needs to be alerted as well.

Under Correspondence, Ed Fowler received a letter from Department of Recreation and Management Policy from the UNH which is asking for our participation for a project entitled SCORP. This project consists of an on-line survey should take approximately 20 minutes. Ed asked if there were any objections to him completing the survey. There was no objection.

Also a note from Dawn Chabot was received regarding a roundtable discussion to be held at the town hall on Monday, May 21. The three items to discuss will be: (1) how can we work together to encourage development in the light industrial/commercial corridor along Rt. 27 while at the same time protecting the natural resources, particularly the riparian area along the North Branch of the Lamprey so that we don't degrade the water quality? (2) what is the most effective way to get all the Boards informed about the various studies that have been done and maps that have been prepared to illustrate the important areas to protect in town? Would a presentation of these studies arranged by SNHPC be the way to go? (3) how can we be assured that substantive changes made to proposed plans are communicated to those who need to know before those altered plans are approved. Example: the changed plans of the Danais industrial development to not mitigate on site, but instead to pay money to DES to be used elsewhere.

Also, Candia Old Home Day Saturday August 18, rain date August 19. Ed Fowler asked whether the Candia Conservation Commission would wish to have a presence at the event. It was agreed to fill out the application

and take part in the event.

Also received was correspondence from Southern NH Planning Commission regarding the 2007 Commission Workshops series. There are seven programs on Friday afternoons all with various dates.

Ed also noted the two 4-H camps; Bear Hill Camp, Bear Brook and the Barry Conservation Camp in the White Mountains. Berry Conservation Camp is designed for specific items, while the Bear Hill 4-H has week long camps. Ed noted we should begin discussing this so as to become a sponsor.

Betsy Kruse presented the commission with various workshops information; Aerial Photo Interpretation Workshop, NH Dragonfly Survey Project and identifying Birds by Sight and South all being held in May with various dates and locations.

Tom Giffen noted that the town website can receive minutes and agendas from all boards and will be posted on the site.

Under Conservation Land Easement Acquisition Status, Ed Fowler received a call from Bob Gersney from Citizens Bank regarding the Sander property. Mr. Gersney noted that this is not a dead issue and the daughters are still interested in placing this property in conservation land easement. Dennis Lewis mentioned he spoke to one of the daughters and informed her that the town was interested in holding the easement.

Ed Fowler noted that he received the corrections for the Conservation Easement Deed for Liquid Planet from Ian Trefrey. Ed noted the changes in the deed and asked the commission to review the information and e-mail him with their thoughts. E. Kruse requested that the commission have a few days to review the changes. Once he has received the responses he will then forward the information to Tom Giffen by May 25. Ed will then submit the information to Dawn Chabot to get into the sign folder for the selectmen. Tom noted that the selectmen's meeting will be held June 11 and that it will need to be discussed as a board, publicly.

A motion was made by Tom Giffen to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Dennis Lewis at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Charlene Harris.