

MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2008
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED 2/18/09

PRESENT- Walter Kalin, Marnie Schulz, Dean Anson, Hillary Martin, Mary Hutchins, Kyril Mitchell

ABSENT – Lisa Morin, Diane Hanley

STAFF – Greg Jones, Conservation

GUESTS – Patrick and Jane Wood – Patrick Wood Law Offices

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CALL TO ORDER- Walter Kalin started the meeting at 6:00pm

OLD BUSINESS

1) Minutes to Approve minutes of 1/14/09

Motion: Dean Anson motioned to approve the minutes as submitted

Seconded: Marnie Schulz

Vote: Unanimous

2) SB-381 – Adoption Update

Greg Jones, Conservation Technician, explained that he and the Planning Director had a meeting with the City Manager, Eileen Cabanel, to discuss the potential adoption of Senate Bill 381 which allows New Hampshire Conservation Commissions to use monies gained through the land use change tax penalty for projects outside of the City. In addition, this bill would allow Conservation Commissions to donate said monies to qualified organizations within and outside of the municipality without holding a legal stake in the property. He explained that the City Manager felt that this was a positive thing to do but that the timing was not right. She felt that at a later date, with a specific project in mind, would be a more appropriate time to address this with the City Council.

3) Conservation Fund Expenditure – Update

The Conservation Technician explained that the recent potential property acquisition, that was the subject of an Executive Session meeting during the month of January, would not be happening. The City has decided that the amount of money the Conservation Commission was willing to contribute to this acquisition would not be sufficient. Therefore, the Conservation Commission has decided to pursue other potential properties in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Shore Drive lot Development proposal – Patrick Wood Law Offices

Patrick Wood explained the intent of the proposed project before the Conservation Commission. He explained that he is looking to develop a lot on the corner of Lynwood Road and Pump Station Road in Laconia. He explained that this lot is restricted by a perennial stream and some wetlands and associated buffers that will need to be slightly impacted in order for the lot to be workable. He explained that when the property was subdivided in the past, the buffer for wetlands in Laconia was 30' from the edge of wetlands.

He explained that he is in the process of filing for a variance in order to reduce the wetland buffer back to 30'. The only disturbance that is proposed is to the last 20' of the 50' wetland buffer. All of the existing buffer up to 30' will be left in its natural state so as not to greatly affect the stream and any wetlands on-site. The Conservation Commission felt that the project was reasonable and as long as the buffer was not greatly impacted/reduced the project would not be of great concern and that the addition of native plantings and avoidance of certain fertilizers would help to mitigate any impacts.

Motion: Kyril Mitchell motioned to endorse the plan with minimal cutting, low phosphate fertilizers, snow fence shall be erected before construction, and native non-invasive plantings will be incorporated to mitigate the removal of vegetation.

Seconded: Hillary Martin

Vote: Unanimous

- 2) **Conservation Easement – Sub-Committee** – Hillary Martin explained that she approached Katherine Hahn from New England Forestry Foundation regarding the acquisition of Conservation Easements and she was interested in coming to the conservation commission to go over the best ways to approach this type of land acquisition. We will be hearing from Hillary on the development of this discussion with Katherine during upcoming meetings. The Commission is awaiting a draft NRI report from the consultants from Watershed to Wildlife. When this report is available, the Easement sub-committee will attempt to consolidate the most sensitive areas in the City in order to prioritize future pursuits of conservation easements.

Planning Board Liaison Report:

Kyril Mitchell explained that the Conservation Technician gave a presentation regarding L.E.E.D certification to the Planning Board on 2/3/09. He explained that the Planning Board was very interested in this new approach to building but had reservations regarding the initial cost of the construction and the lack of incentives for builders to actually take the steps needed to incorporate L.E.E.D standards. He explained that steps will need to be taken in the future to add local incentives for builders in order to interest them further.

Sub-Committee Report:

Walter Kalin explained that the Lake Opechee Association has formed and their first meeting was recent. The group has formed to address issues on Lake Opechee that threaten the vitality of the water body. One of the major projects they hope to tackle in the upcoming year is the removal of invasive species such as variable milfoil which has become a major concern for many parties who use this waterbody.

Dean Anson explained that Lakeside living is holding the environmental Expo in Gilford during the month of July, 2009. He wondered if the Conservation Commission would be interested in having a booth at this event. The Commission members were unsure at the time of the discussion but may re-visit the idea in the near future.

Motion: Marnie Schulz motioned to adjourn the meeting at **7:05pm**

Seconded: Hillary Martin

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting ended at: **7:05pm**

Respectfully submitted_____