

MINUTES OF MEETING
September 21, 2011
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Approved at the October 19, 2011 meeting

PRESENT- Dean Anson, Chair, Marnie Schulz, Debra Williams, Lisa Morin and Hillary May,

ABSENT- Tobias Paddock

OTHERS PRESENT- New member candidate Martha Jane Connelly

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by D. Anson at 6:00 PM

I. Old Business:

a. Review minutes from the June 22, 2011 meeting.

D. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2011. The motion was seconded by L. Morin. The motion passed 5-0.

II. New Business:

a. Comments on wetland buffer improvements at 48 Eastman Shore Road

The project proposes to tear down an existing building located on Lake Winnisquam located 80% in the wetland buffer and build a larger new home with additional square footage impacts to the buffer.

D. Williams made a motion to recommend the following changes to the plan. The motion was seconded by Hillary May: 1. the house be moved further North to reduce wetland buffer impacts 2. Additional plantings be added along the 75-foot stream buffer 3. When the old well is abandoned confirmation on how it will be sealed 4. Add a note on the plan that no pesticides and herbicides can be used on the property. 5. Recommend the use of porous pavers in the wetland buffer where possible. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Discussion of Laconia City Council Environmental Goals

D. Anson passed out the Laconia Sun Article quoting the City Council agreeing that safeguarding the Lakes and water quality is one of four priorities the city wants to emphasize. Current water quality testing is underway and invasive species management is being looked into at the Local level.

c. Welcome new Con Com potential volunteers

M. Connelly will place her name for consideration to be appointed to the LCC. All members were happy she would lend her expertise to the Commission.

d. Yearly Easement Walk schedule

It's that time of year for easement walks. Any members interested can participate by calling the planning office. S. McPhie will schedule his walks for Thursday and Friday and work out additional days depending on volunteer participation.

e. Jewett Brook subcommittee discussion and follow up

The hearing went well and those in attendance agreed the Union Avenue Bridge work and sediment clearing was a major focus of the study. Improvements could be made to pass the 25-year storm under the bridge by increasing the width of the opening and cleaning the concrete lined stream channel around and under the Scott and Williams Property.

The meeting supported the city's argument that each property owner must work together to protect all their property interests so one independent action to stabilize one property will not negatively impact another downstream property owner. The study will attempt to provide options but cannot predict all issues will be resolved. The presenter made clear no matter how much we would like to solve all problems along the stream it must be accepted the physical loss of property is a natural occurrence.

Sediments are being washed into Jewett Brook from Gilford and various drainage infrastructure in Gilford was identified as being in need of upgrading. Additional action items will be prioritized at a later date and an action plan implemented as funding becomes available.

f. Ordinance Discussion

A discussion ensued about locally adopting the entire old Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act. The New Hampshire Legislature decided to alter the act and create a much less restrictive version as of July 1, 2011 called "Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act". Creating fewer protections for an over burdened natural resource like Lake Winnepesaukee is not only wrong but it would be detrimental to sustaining a healthy economy for the region and over all for the State of New Hampshire. A recent seminar in Guilford hosted by Belknap County and presented by New Hampshire DES provided verification of changes made to the act.

The region is very concerned about those that do not respect the environment will use these changes to abuse the system. There is no

concern for those already protecting the Lake as they do not need to be regulated. The act is in place to protect the Lake from the worst possible scenarios that have occurred in the past hence the need for the more stringent ordinance. The danger now will be bad best management practices will now be encouraged therefore inviting costly environmental impacts in the future that will still require DES enforcement. Dianne Hanley spearheaded the idea of adopting, at a minimum, the old tree count method from the pre July 2011 act therefore maintaining the vegetation cover and decreases the need to remove stumps reducing sediment impacts to water bodies.

D. Anson believed the entire act should be adopted across the region to maintain consistent language. S. McPhie added unlike some communities around the Lake Laconia already has some of the old protections in place and with the small amount of permits concerning Shoreland impacts in Laconia the additional enforcement could be absorbed and already is being absorbed as we require 1 for 1 tree replacement if any trees are removed. The County could assist those owners that do not choose to hire a wetland scientist to complete their permits. M. Schulz cautioned the LCC that the reason the changes were made were to address past complaints by homeowner so some controversy is possible if you adopt the entire ordinance at the local level.

D. Williams made a motion to investigate opportunities to adopt the former Shoreland protection act or certain key parts. The motion was seconded by H. May. The motion passed 5-0.

g. New Budget item for tree clearing on con com properties

The LCC was in agreement a portion of the current use funds that are distributed into the general fund should be allocated to maintain the two small Conservation managed parcels in Laconia. D. Anson and S. McPhie would put together a letter to allocate at least two hundred dollars a year for the fund in question to maintain wetlands and manage hazard tree issues.

M. Schulz made a motion to seek maintenance funding opportunities. The motion was seconded by H. May. The motion passed 5-0.

Liaison & Sub-Committee Reports:

-Planning Board Liaison – T. Paddock

No report

-Permit Sub-Committee –

There were many permits to address over the summer season and D. Anson and S. McPhie, through the city clerk, were able to address all of these items in a timely manner.

IV. **Other Business:**

- Subdivision/ Site Plan update-

See Above under new business

- Commissioners Comments

No Comments

- Staff Comments-

All comments were addressed within the meeting

V. **Adjournment:**

M. Schulz made a motion to adjourn the motion was seconded by D. Williams
The motion passed 5-0-0.