

**MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 11, 2002 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
1 JUNKINS AVENUE
Conference Room A**

3:30 p.m.

December 11, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Alanson Sturgis; Members Carlton McNeil; Allison Tanner; Brian Wazlaw; Don Green; Charles Cormier; J. Lyn Walters; and, alternate Steve Miller

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner

ABSENCE EXCUSED:

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Chairman Sturgis called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Walters made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2002, Conservation Committee meeting; Ms. Tanner seconded and approved unanimously with a 7 – 0 vote.

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2. WETLANDS BUREAU PERMIT APPLICATION:

a) City of Portsmouth for Newcastle Avenue

Mr. John Burke, The Division Director of Parking and Transportation, stated that a 1,100 feet of seawall along Newcastle Avenue is in a state of disrepair and has collapsed in certain areas with water coming through on the backside that has caused significant safety issues. We have received a Federal grant through the DOT to repair and re-construct the deteriorated ¼ mile seawall along Newcastle Avenue. Decorative wrought iron hand rails and lighting will be used; it is also proposed to put the utilities underground wiring; and, repair the sidewalk. A photo was presented that indicated what Newcastle Avenue would look like after the project has been completed. The Commission members all agreed that this area would be enhanced greatly with the proposed alterations.

Mr. Howe stated that during construction, traffic will be limited to one-way; however, during the evening hours two-way traffic will resume. He reiterated the wall will be rebuilt in kind. The face of the seawall will not be changed; however, there will be three bump-outs spaced approximately 300' apart with lighting placed on the backside of the fence. He presented an enhanced photograph to show what the project will look like when completed. Marsh grass will be disturbed approximately twenty feet in front the wall; however, we are anticipating the work will be done in one season.

Ms. Lee Carboneau of Normandeau Associates, stated that 20' out from the wall will be part of the construction zone or 1,985 s.f.. We are proposing to replant any grass that is disturbed.

Mr. Burke stated the existing wall was built approximately in 1885 to 1886 and most likely replaced an earlier wall.

Chairman Sturgis stated that a flock of geese could land in the marsh area and pull the plants and roots up. Ms. Carboneau replied that temporary fencing will be erected to keep the geese out of a newly planted area.

Mr. Cormier made a motion to recommend approval to the Wetlands Bureau; Mr. Wazlaw seconded and all approved unanimously with a 7 – 0 vote.

3. Other Business

Mr. Sturgis stated that the residents in the Tucker's Cove area are not aware of what they can do or cannot do when their property abuts the Wetlands. He proposed mailing a copy of a brochure to the residents and developers at Tuckers Cove.

Mr. Sturgis stated he was also concerned that the City did not have a City Arborist. We do have a person in the Public Works Department who is an Arborist, but if he is told to remove a tree, he does just that. Mr. Sturgis feels that to have a City Arborist is a very import feature and had received a copy of a letter from Richard Adams inquiring about this position. He added that it could be suggested that the formation of a Tree Commission be implemented to oversee City trees.

Chairman Sturgis stated he would pursue this matter with the blessing of the Commission. The Commission members all agreed that Chairman Sturgis pursue this matter.

4. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be on January 8, 2003

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously to adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Long
Planning Department Secretary

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