

**MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**1 JUNKINS AVENUE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONFERENCE ROOM "A"**

3:30 P.M.

JUNE 9, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Miller; Vice Chairman James Horrigan; Members, Allison Tanner, Barbara McMillan, Catherine Ennis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Wazlaw, Mary Ann Blanchard

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner

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I. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Approval of minutes – March 17, 2010 (Work Session)

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

Approval of minutes – April 20, 2010 (Work Session)

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

Approval of minutes – May 12, 2010

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

II. STATE WETLANDS BUREAU PERMIT APPLICATIONS

1. Standard Dredge and Fill Application
Exeter Street at Airline Avenue and Flight Line Road
Pease Development Authority, owner
Assessor Maps 307 & 308, Lots 3 & 9

Ms. Maria Stowell, manager of engineering at Pease Development Authority (PDA) and Mr. Michael Mates, staff engineer for PDA were present to speak to the application.

Ms. Stowell stated that the project involved replacing the existing fence that surrounds the airfield with a wildlife fence. She said that the existing fence was about 50 years old and in disrepair but the main reason for the new fence was to keep wildlife off of the airfield. Studies had been done to track the wildlife and it was determined that turkeys posed the biggest problem because they roost at night along the tree line and then drop down into the airfield. She said that the plan was to bury the fence fabric about a foot to eliminate any animals from digging underneath it.

Ms. Stowell explained that there were three places where the wetlands would be impacted. Page 11 showed impact areas of 465 square feet and 625 square feet. She showed the Commission the areas on a large map. Page 12 showed a small impact area of 60 square feet.

There was discussion about drainage in these areas. Ms. Stowell said that they would be installing pipes in one of the large finger areas.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Luke Hurley of Gove Environmental Services arrived and took over the presentation.

Chairman Miller asked if the new fence would impede drainage in certain areas. Mr. Hurley explained that the fence would be somewhat permeable to allow water to go through it. He said it would be almost like a silt fence.

Vice Chairman Horrigan stated that he used to work on the site about 55 years ago. He recalled that everywhere they worked they hit water within a foot of digging and spent most of their time pumping it out. He asked how they would deal with that. Mr. Hurley did not think it would be an issue since it was on the fringe of the wetlands. Ms. Stowell added that they would probably start the work in September. Mr. Hurley thought it would be a little bit drier at that time of year.

Vice Chairman Horrigan said some sections of the fence would be under water and so he wondered how they would maintain that. Mr. Hurley said the fence would be galvanized and also made of a waterproof fabric.

Ms. Stowell informed the Commission the project would be made possible by FAA funding. They would also have to time the project to accommodate the air show. Ms. Tanner stated that she was please with the time frame as the amphibian population would hopefully be able to get out of the way of the work.

Mr. Mates pointed out that the FAA dictates that certain areas accommodate wing spans of airplanes so some of the fence line was dictated by them.

Mr. Britz asked about stabilization of the area. Mr. Hurley said in the back of the packet, there were instructions that stated that any exposed areas would be seeded and reestablished.

Ms. McMillan asked where the material would go that was taken out. Mr. Hurley said it would be taken off site.

Ms. McMillan asked if the barbed wire top of the fence was standard. Ms. Stowell said that it was a standard FAA security fence. She added that it would be 8 feet taller than the existing fence.

Ms. McMillan asked about the wildlife studies and who conducted them. Chairman Miller pointed out that the submitted information stated it was the USDA Wildlife Services. Ms. McMillan asked if there was a wildlife management plan at Pease and if so, was this project part of that plan. Ms. Stowell replied yes. Ms. McMillan commented that she would like to know more about it.

Hearing no other questions, Chairman Miller asked for a motion.

Ms. Tanner made a motion to recommend approval of the application to the State Wetlands Bureau. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ennis. There was no additional discussion. The motion to recommend approval of the application to the State Wetlands Bureau passed by a unanimous (5-0) vote.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Zachary Taylor, project planner for Riverside and Pickering Marine Construction was present to speak to a minimum impact expedited application for 206 Northwest Street.

Mr. Taylor stated that a large percentage of the shoreline was stabilized by a deteriorating bulkhead. He said that there was a comprehensive plan currently permitted by DES to stabilize the shoreline as well as do some upland work. The plan included a granite wall but the owner would like to replace it with another timber bulkhead so they were in the process of trying to amend that approval. Mr. Taylor explained that the existing pier sits on the bulkhead and they will have to remove it in order to do the work. There are four pilings in place that are deteriorating as well and they would like to replace those pilings. He said that the minimum impact expedited application was for the replacement of those pilings.

Chairman Miller asked if they would be new timbers or poured concrete. Mr. Taylor said that they would pull the old piles out and pound in the new timber piles with an excavator.

Mr. Taylor stated that he spoke with Melissa Copola at the National Heritage Bureau, and she found that that area was just a tidal mud flat. There was no marsh grass in the project area. She did find a small area of cobble.

Mr. Britz pointed out that there was a restoration plan on file for the North Mill Pond and he invited Mr. Taylor to take a look at it. Mr. Taylor said that he thought the owner would be very interested in seeing it.

There was discussion on how the work of the two projects would be coordinated.

Hearing no other discussion, the Commission authorized Chairman Miller to sign the minimum impact expedited application.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:20 p.m., it was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Good
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the Conservation Commission meeting on July 14, 2010.