

**MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

3:30 P.M.

August 11, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Miller; Vice Chairman James Horrigan; Members, Allison Tanner, Brian Wazlaw, Barbara McMillan, Mary Ann Blanchard, Catherine Ennis, and Alternate Elissa Hill Stone

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner

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Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed new Commission member, Elissa Hill Stone to the meeting.

I. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS

1. 4 Regina Road
Morgan Sze, owner
Assessor Map 225, Lot 25

Ms. Anne Bialobrzkeski, septic designer for the project was present to speak to the application. She stated that she has also submitted the design plans to the Department of Environmental Services and has received approval from them.

Ms. Bialobrzkeski explained in detail the existing conditions. She stated that she had Mr. Marc Jacobs; a certified wetland scientist delineate the wetlands and he has reviewed and stamped the plans that were submitted to the Commission.

Ms. Bialobrzkeski stated that the system would be located essentially in the same location. She also told the Commission that the existing system would be removed and replaced with clean fill. The lawn would remain lawn and there would be no disturbance in the abutting woods. Ms. Bialobrzkeski pointed out a Hawthorne tree that might be removed because it was dead. She also added that the grade would be similar to what it was now.

Vice Chairman Horrigan commented that it looked like the house was built on fill. Ms. Bialobrzkeski said that was probably correct.

Vice Chairman Horrigan stated that Hawthorne trees send their roots out to incredible distances. He thought that if the tree was not removed, it would probably grow into the new septic system.

Chairman Miller asked the distance between the house and the wetland. Ms. Bialobrzkeski thought it was about 15 feet. He wondered what made up the vegetative buffer in that area. Ms. Bialobrzkeski explained that the area would not be touched. Chairman Miller said that he just wanted to reinforce that area was a vital part of the wetland area.

Chairman Miller asked if there was sewer service in the area. Ms. Bialobrzkeski said there was sewer from Elywn Road to the Gosport Road/Tucker's Cove area. But there was not sewer on Regina Road.

Ms. McMillan asked if the silt fence would be left in place until the area was stabilized. Ms. Bialobrzkeski replied yes.

Ms. Barbara Smith of 6 Regina Road, an abutter, spoke to the application. Ms. Smith stated that she had not seen the plan and wanted to know if the septic system would be in the front or the back of the house. Ms. Bialobrzkeski said that it would be located directly behind the house.

Ms. Smith said that her concern was a culvert that runs under Regina Road that was damaged. She explained that she had talked with Mr. Bob Iafolla, a neighbor and Mr. Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director and both said it was not their responsibility. She thought it was probably Mr. Sze's responsibility. She added that an area that was always dry after rains but was now always sopping wet. Chairman Miller asked Ms. Smith if she thought that was because of Mr. Sze's septic system. Ms. Smith replied no, she thought it was because of the damaged culvert that was raising the water level in that area.

Mr. Britz stated that these were two different issues. He said that he would be in touch with City staff to investigate the problem. He gave Ms. Smith his card and asked her to contact him and then he would speak to Mr. Parkinson.

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

Ms. Tanner made a motion to recommend approval of the application to the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ennis. There was no additional discussion.

Chairman Miller called for the vote. The motion to recommend approval of the application to the Planning Board passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

2. 305 Salmon Avenue
Estate of Leonard M. Hatch, owner
Assessor Map 291, Lot 7-305

Mr. Dave Harman, representing his brother-in-law, Mr. Welles Hatch, was present to speak to the application. He explained that Mr. Hatch was serving as the executor of the Leonard M. Hatch estate.

Mr. Harman stated that they were seeking to remove the existing shed on the property, which exceeded the size requirements for the mobile home park, and replace it with a new shed that would

meet the requirements. The new shed's dimension would be 8'x12' and would be installed in the same location.

Vice Chairman Horrigan commented that the whole area was built in a wetland. He said that he would recommend that the new shed be placed on blocks so that water could flow underneath it. Mr. Harman said that he was amenable to that and added that they would move the new shed to the front of the existing footprint to keep it as far away from the wetland as possible.

Chairman Miller asked if there were any more questions for the applicant. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Ms. Blanchard made a motion to recommend approval of the application to the Planning Board. The motion was seconded Ms. Ennis.

Vice Chairman Horrigan added the stipulation that the new shed be installed on blocks.

Mr. Britz pointed out that the building permit application showed that the shed being removed and the new shed were the same size, 8'x 12'. Mr. Harman felt that Mr. Hatch made an error when filling out the application because the largest size shed allowed in the park was 10'x12'. He assured the Commission that the new shed would not exceed the park's size and height requirements and would be placed on the same footprint.

Hearing no other discussion, Chairman Miller called for the vote. The motion to recommend approval of the application to the Planning Board with the following stipulation passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote:

- 1) That the new shed is placed on blocks.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Horrigan asked when the Commission would get another look at the Public Lands Assessment study. Mr. Britz said that he had hoped to have had it before this meeting. Vice Chairman Horrigan commented that it needed to be in parallel with the recreation study.

Mr. Britz stated that the Prime Wetlands Assessment was passed by the City Council at the last Council meeting.

III. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:05 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 September 8, 2010.