

**MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

3:30 P.M.

JULY 8, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Miller; Vice Chairman Mary Ann Blanchard;
Members Allison Tanner, Barbara McMillan; Elissa Hill Stone,
Peter Vandermark, Shelley Saunders; Alternate Kimberly Meuse

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner

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I. PRESENTATION BY SOUTHEAST LAND TRUST OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mr. David Viale of Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire made a presentation to the Commission on the proposal to purchase the property at 530 Ocean Road, owned by Tom and Dott Ferrari. The following are the highlights of the presentation and discussion that followed:

- The proposal was for the City to purchase the entire 46 acres or purchase the back 36 acres with the Southeast Land Trust of NH being the conservation easement holder. It was believed that this property would fit well with the City's conservation planning. Option 1 was for the City to purchase the entire parcel (46.64 acres) for approximately \$340,000.00. Option 2 was to purchase only the back parcel (34.5 acres) for a cost of \$151,000.00. The current appraisal for the property was \$310,000.00 for the 46.64 acres (\$6,600 per acre) and \$121,000.00 for the 34.5 acres (\$3,400.00 per acre). Mr. Viale was asked if there was any discussion with the owner about donating some of the land. He responded that the owner might be open to that idea. There was considerable discussion about funding sources such as grants, etc.
- There was discussion regarding what the Southeast Land Trust's responsibilities would be as the conservation easement holder.
- It was pointed out that the Conservation Fund has approximately \$900,000.00 in it. Any use of the funds would need to go through the City Council for approval.
- It was noted that a natural resource protection assessment has not been done on the property.

The Commission felt the proposals were worth exploring. They felt the appraisal of the property was high and would like to see it come down a bit. The majority of the Commission was interested in Option 2. It was decided that Mr. Britz could have a conversation with the Department of Public Works concerning the viability of the parcel.

It was decided to put this on the August agenda for continued discussion.

II. CITYWIDE OPEN SPACE DISCUSSION

a. CONSERVATION MONITORING - STEWARDSHIP

b. OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION/PRIORITIZATION

c. HABITAT PROTECTION

d. PULA UPDATE

The Commission spent the remainder of the meeting discussing how to move forward with assessing and protecting various City owned parcels. It was decided that they needed a stewardship plan. It was also mentioned how important visibility would be and that it would be valuable to get the community involved. It was also mentioned that education would be important, especially about invasive species and the dumping of debris.

It was agreed that the Commission would bring their calendars to the next meeting to choose a date for another work session.

III. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:15 p.m., it was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Good
Administrative Clerk

These minutes were approved at the Conservation Commission meeting on Sept. 10, 2014.