

**MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

3:30 P.M.

NOVEMBER 12, 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,
Matthew Cardin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner

.....

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 13, 2014

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes as amended.

2. September 10, 2014

It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously (7-0) to approve the minutes as presented.

II. STATE WETLANDS BUREAU PERMIT APPLICATIONS

A. Standard Dredge and Fill Application
5 Pleasant Point Drive
Martha Stolzer, owner
Assessor Map 207, Lot 7

Ms. Lisa Vickers of Eco-Analysts, Inc. was present to speak to the application. She stated that the applicant owned two lots. A house was currently under construction on one lot. They were proposing to construct a fixed pier with a seasonal ramp and float on the second lot.

Ms. Vickers led the Commission through the submitted plans. She highlighted the fact that there was marsh elder in the vicinity; however, the new pier would not affect those populations. She explained that the permanent portion of the pier would be over ledge. She added that one tree would be removed for the path and that the Department of Environmental Services had allowed it.

Chairman Miller asked what the path would be made of. Ms. Vickers said that it would be mostly lawn area. No stone would be used. She added that the float would have float skids and would be elevated.

Vice-Chair Blanchard asked about the length of the dock. Ms. Vickers said it would be approximately 80 feet in length.

Ms. Tanner pointed out that no fertilizer would be allowed on the grass pathway.

Chairman Miller asked about the piling system. Ms. Vickers stated that 4" x 6" timbers would be used. Mr. Britz asked how the float would be kept stationary. Ms. Vickers said with anchors that would be screwed into the mud. She added that there would not be any pilings around the float as it would be taken out of the water seasonally.

Ms. McMillan asked why the use of skids. Ms. Vickers said it was decided strictly from a construction standpoint. She said that most contractors liked working with the skids.

Ms. McMillan pointed out that Sheet 2 of the submitted plans showed the pier going over vegetation. She felt that locations either to the right or left would be better locations. Ms. Vickers said that the pier would be elevated and it would allow some sunlight to penetrate the area underneath. She said she was trying to minimize the disruption to the marsh vegetation. Ms. Vickers added that they would not need a barge to construct the dock. They would use rubber mats.

Ms. McMillan asked about the proposed decking. Ms. Vickers said they would be using pressure treated lumber, an aluminum ramp and float timbers.

Ms. Cardin asked what size boats the pier would accommodate. Ms. Vickers said boats in the 15-20 foot range and some kayaks would be tied up there.

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

Ms. Stone made a motion to recommend approval of the application to the State Wetlands Bureau. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tanner. There was no discussion.

The motion to recommend approval of the application to the State Wetlands Bureau passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

III. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATIONS

1. 258 Buckminister Way
Jay and Karen J. Longtin, owners
Assessor Map 282, Lot 20

Mr. Jay Longtin, owner of the property was present to speak to the application. He stated that he wanted to put a shed in his backyard. He explained that it would impact some scrub brush but would not involve the removal of any major trees.

Chairman Miller asked what the shed would be placed on. Mr. Longtin replied concrete blocks.

Mr. Vandermark commented that it looked as if the owner was setting the shed into the woods in order to try to screen it from the neighbor.

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

Vice-Chair Blanchard made a motion to recommend approval of the application to the State Wetlands Bureau. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stone. There was no discussion.

The motion to recommend approval of the application to the State Wetlands Bureau passed by a unanimous (7-0) vote.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. AJ Dupre – Urban Forestry Center –Red Pine scale presentation

Mr. A.J. Dupre of the Urban Forestry Center was present to update the Commission on the current conditions of red pine scale in the City. He explained that they are finding it on the branches of Red Pine trees but not on the trunks. They will be removing Red Pines from both sides of the driveway at the Urban Forestry Center.

Vice-Chair Blanchard asked how the wood is treated once it is harvested. Mr. Dupre said it would be chipped and taken to the Shiller plant for burning. He said that they would like to get the trees removed during the winter months.

Ms. Tanner asked if Red Pines were the only trees affected. Mr. Dupre replied no. He explained that Red Pines were planted for telephone pole crops.

Mr. Vandermark mentioned that all of the Red Pine would be removed in the red circles on Mr. Dupre's displayed map. He pointed out that they would have to deal with invasives once the trees were removed.

Ms. Tanner asked about the Blue Spruce trees and commented that they were no longer there. Mr. Dupre explained that they lost them in a wind storm.

Mr. Cardin asked what does one look for when identifying Red Pine scale. Mr. Dupre said that the tree will start to die from the bottom up. Ms. Tanner asked if there were any natural predators. Mr. Dupre replied no, and added that no biological treatments have worked.

Vice-Chair Blanchard asked who issues the standards for cleaning up safely. Mr. Dupre said it was the State Forester through UFM. He told the Commission that the legal notice has been posted in the paper and the bids will be in next week. They plan to have a commercial burn on site. He added that they are looking at removing about 400-500 trees per acre.

Ms. McMillan asked if they had goals about what to do in those areas. Mr. Dupre said that they want bird and wildlife habitat. He did not think that anything was going to happen this spring however. Ms. McMillan pointed out that some of the tree removal was located in the buffer.

The Commission thanked Mr. Dupre for informing them of the situation.

B. Conservation lands survey update

Some Commission members gave updates on the properties they were conducting assessments on.

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:30 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 March 11, 2015.