

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2020, 7:00 PM

MINUTES - DRAFT

Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street

Attendees: Chair Kristine Tardiff, Councilor Brent Todd, Members Kathy Healy, Jeff Lewis, and Rick Chormann.

Absent: Vice-Chair Jim Owers, Chris Kane, Tracey Boisvert, and Alternate Stefan Mattlage

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner
Lisa Fellows-Weaver, Administrative Specialist

Public: Rebecca Ross

There was not a quorum present at 7:00 pm. Correspondence was distributed and reviewed, which included the Forestry Report, as well as information, and registration materials for the upcoming NH Annual Land Conservation Conference, Saving Special Places.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tardiff at 7:45 p.m.

1. Minutes

February 12, 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Healy, to approve the February 12, 2020, minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

2. NHDES Items - none

3. Reports

a. Trails Subcommittee

Mr. Lewis attended the Trails Subcommittee meeting and provided a synopsis of the meeting for the Commission. He mentioned that there have been good turnouts at the recent hikes.

Mr. Lewis stated that the Trails Subcommittee is continuing to work on addressing items for trail etiquette and potential closings due to mud season.

Mr. Lewis presented the Trails Subcommittee revisions to the trail procedure checklist to address the notification policy for public outreach. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Chormann, to approve the checklist changes, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she will be scheduling site walks for the Backwoods and Knowlton Woods proposed trails.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Ron Klemarczyk will be coming to the meeting in April to present the forest inventory for Knowlton Woods.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Trails Subcommittee is planning to hold project work days for clean up again this year.

b. Forestry

The Forester's report was circulated. No discussion was held.

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c. Concord Tree Committee

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Tree Committee's next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2020. She stated that Committee is still working on collecting the inventory data.

d. Local River Advisory Committees

Mr. Chormann stated that there will be a presentation of stream crossings and culverts and how communities can get funding at the April 13 UMLAC meeting. He will send an email to staff with the information.

e. Other

Arbor Day – April 24

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Arbor Day is April 24. She stated that she is working on a tree planting; location is yet to be determined.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Stefanie Breton will be working with the committee to have an article on Tree maintenance in the April edition of the Insider. She added that she has reached out to AJ Dupree at the Division of Forest and Lands to see if he would be willing to do a class on tree maintenance in April.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she has received a request looking for the Commission to partner with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) for trail work. Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she would like to suggest an invasive species management instead of trail work. She will follow up with the SCA and will update the Commission in April.

4. City Open Space

- a. Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she will be following up with the Richards forest and the prior violation of wetland filling.

5. City Council/Planning Board

Councilor Todd stated that the public hearing for the properties on Currier Road for \$35,000 and District 5 Road for \$12,000 has been scheduled for April 13. Ms. Fenstermacher noted that Mr. Owers is planning to attend.

Ms. Tardiff requested that members review the new zoning proposal, specifically the language pertaining to height restrictions for conservation. This item will be addressed at the April meeting.

6. Follow-up/On-going Items:

- a. Crosby & Leadbeater – site walks to be scheduled prior to the April meeting
- b. Education outreach – ConcordTV
ConcordTV is continuing work on educational video clips that will be added to the Trails website.
- c. *Update to Bylaws*
Members requested that the drafts be recirculated prior to next month's meeting.

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d. Easement Enforcement Policy

This item was continued to next month as Mr. Kane was not in attendance to provide examples of policies.

e. Conservation Easement Standard Templates

This item was continued.

7. Other Business

a. Murray Property

It was noted that the Murray property was closed on at the end of January.

b. Trails Master Plan

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that Craig Tufts is working on the Trails Master Plan. She and Mr. Tufts will be meeting with RPAC next week.

c. Survey

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the survey is still open. There have been 450 participants so far.

d. Saving Special Places

Information was provided.

e. Barn at Bull Meadow – Bog Road

Ms. Fenstermacher explained that the applicants are trying to close on the property. The lending bank's attorney is requesting evidence from the City regarding the right to cross the recreation easement, which is located over the former Concord/Claremont Railroad. She stated that the proposed project was approved by the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board last year. She stated that the bank is requesting a letter from the holder of the easement saying that the City will allow the driveway to go through the easement. Based on initial review by the City Solicitor, the request may need to go back to City Council as the holder of the easement. The Commission did not have any issue with the driveway or easement as this item was previously addressed during the site plan process and wetland crossing application.

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Chormann, confirming the Conservation Commission's position that there is no opposition to the proposal for the driveway to be located in its proposed location, as presented during the site plan process. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Chormann made a motion, second by Ms. Healy, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Administrative Specialist