

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
March 14, 2012
City Council Chambers, City Hall Annex
41 Green Street, Concord, NH

Attendance:

Members present at the meeting included: Christopher Morgan; Kristine Tardiff; Jim Owers; Jan McClure; Chris Kane; Rick Chormann; Pamela Hunt; Gloria McPherson, City Planner and Rebecca Hebert, Senior Planner, also attended the meeting.

C. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:05.

1. Minutes:

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the February 8, 2012, meeting, and the minutes were unanimously accepted with one minor correction.

2. Wetlands Bureau:

- a) City of Concord Standard Dredge and Fill Permit Application for the wetland impacts associated with the creation of a skating pond at Beaver Meadow Golf Course – Edward Roberge, City Engineer presented an overview of the project. He explained that he has been working with the Golf Course Advisory Committee to create a new ice skating pond near the 9th hole. The pond would be constructed by dredging two areas of existing wetlands. The pond would be approximately 51,000 sq. ft. The White Park skating pond is just less than three acres. The proposed impact exceeds 20,000 sq. ft. and is classified as a major impact which also requires compensatory mitigation. The proposed mitigation involves the replacement of three culverts along Beaver Meadow Brook with new open bottom embedded arch culverts sized for the 100 year storm event. Mr. Roberge said that the total area of wetland impact is 28,631 sq. ft. The Commission discussed whether or not the wetlands were connected to a larger wetland complex. Mr. Roberge explained that the two wetlands were isolated and not connected to Beaver Meadow Brook. R. Chormann asked if the water levels were stable. Mr. Roberge said that the ponds are pumped and that the disturbed areas will be seeded with a wet meadow mix. J. Owers moved to send a letter of support to the Wetlands Bureau for the application. P. Hunt seconded; all in favor; motion passed (5-1); R. Chormann opposed.
- b) Correspondence – R. Hebert reviewed the correspondence from the Wetlands Bureau.

- c) Other – The Commission discussed possible mitigation sites for the proposed Route 106 project. The group suggested looking at what the Master Plan recommendation is for land protection along the Soucook River.

Merrimack River Greenway Trail – Greg Bakos, a member of the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (FMRGT) explained that the FMRGT would like to conduct some soil borings on the City-owned agricultural land south of Gully Hill Road. He said that the FMRGT needs more information about the soils in the vicinity of the proposed boardwalk in order to move forward with the design of the trail. The borings would be approximately 10 to 15 feet deep and would be taken with a small tracked vehicle. Mr. Bakos estimated that they would need to drill 4 to 5 borings. Mr. Bakos discussed the proposed location of the trail and boardwalk and said that the test borings might need a wetlands permit. K. Tardiff moved to approve the request to obtain a wetlands permit and grant permission for the FMRGT to drill soil test borings on the City-owned land southerly of Gully Hill Road. J. Owers seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

3. City Council/Planning Board Action:

- a. **Budget** – R. Hebert reported that the budget has been submitted. She said that during the budget review with the City Manager additional money was allocated towards the planting of trees. The Commission discussed the tree planting program and asked staff to look into any existing tree planting policies. The group discussed the need to create a committee to look after the planting and removal of City trees. A tree committee used to be organized under Groundwork Concord, but at the moment there is not an organized tree committee in Concord. C. Kane offered to contact past members of the committee to see if there is still an interest in the community with regards to organizing a new group of volunteers. R. Hebert suggested that the members of General Services and the City's Arborist be included in the discussion. R. Hebert offered to organize a meeting at City Hall to discuss the formation of a new tree committee.

4. Open Space:

The group discussed the proposed Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) conservation easement for the agricultural land southerly of Gully Hill Road and agreed to bring this to the City Council for acceptance in April.

C. Morgan reported that the Morrill Farm Dairy was selected as the successful proposal for the lease of the land off of West Locke Road. He said that there were seven proposals submitted, but the review committee selected the Morrill Farm Dairy because their proposal thoroughly addressed the conservation easement, land and public access concerns and had a competitive price.

The group discussed the Martin property off of Stickney Hill Road and suggested that the land might be eligible for NHDES Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund grant. R. Hebert offered to follow up with the NHDES.

G. McPherson reported that she spoke with William Hoag regarding the protection of the broken ground properties. She also said the owners of the Whispering Heights subdivision have filed a request with the Planning Board for the extension of their subdivision approval.

The Planning Board will review the request at their meeting next week. The Commission decided to hold off on having the Whispering Heights and Broken Ground properties appraised.

The group discussed the Pierce property off of Stickney Hill Road. R. Hebert offered to contact Five Rivers Conservation Trust and the Pierce family to discuss the appraisal.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Rebecca Hebert

Senior Planner, Secretary pro-tem