

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 13, 2018, 7:00 PM
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street

Members present at the meeting included: Kris Tardiff (Chair), Jim Owers (Vice Chair), Councilor Mark Coen, Kathy Healy, Tracey Boisvert, Rick Chormann, Stefan Mattlage and Jeff Lewis. Assistant City Planner Beth Fenstermacher was also present.

1. Minutes

May 9, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Owers, and seconded by Councilor Coen, to approve the May 9, 2018 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Hearing for the purchase of land on Hot Hole Pond Road owned by the Hardy family for conservation purposes.

Members of the Conservation Commission did a site walk of the property a couple of weeks ago. This parcel will provide connections to the Oak Hill Trails, has interesting stone foundations, existing gated access road, and Ron Klemarczyk, City Forester, said there is good timber value. The Hardy family agreed to the appraisal price of \$340,000. The Hardy family would like to some recognition of their father, it was suggested that the property be referred to as "Knowlton Woods". This parcel is a focus area according to the City's Open Space Plan. There are no outside funding sources identified so purchase will be entirely with Conservation Trust funds. This parcel has been a priority area for a long time. There was no public comment. Mr. Owers made a motion, second by Mr. Lewis, to recommend that City Council approve the acquisition and expend \$340,000 from the Conservation Trust Fund and up to \$15,000 for transaction costs to purchase property. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Hearing for the purchase of land off Fisk Road owned by the Martin family for conservation purposes.

The Martin lot is appraised at \$12,600. The Martin family agreed to a purchase price of \$13,400. Mr. Owers has been the liaison with the Martin family. The Martin's were concerned that there may be an easement to their lot, however, there is not. There was no public comment. There will be a City Council public hearing on August 13th regarding purchasing this parcel. This parcel is a missing piece to a larger area of city owned property. Mr. Owers made a motion, second by Mr. Chormann, to recommend that City Council approve the acquisition and expend \$13,400 from the Conservation Trust Fund and up to \$3,000 for transaction costs to purchase property. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The application was in the process and had been sent.

4. Councilor Rob Werner, to discuss the Renewable Energy Policy and proposed solar ordinance.

Counselor Werner made a presentation and stated that he wanted to work with the Conservation Commission regarding the solar ordinance and the Renewable Energy Resolution. The Mayor asked the energy committee to head this initiative. The language of the Resolution is being worked on to address comments by the Chamber of Commerce, and the energy committee would like feedback from the Conservation Commission. The language for the revised Resolution will be done by Friday June, 15, 2018. The committee will be presenting the new Resolution to the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee at their June 18th meeting and to City Council at the July 9th meeting. Conservation Commission asked if the presentation of the new Resolution could be delayed being presented to the City Council by one month to give the Conservation Commission time to give their feedback. Counselor Werner assured the Commission that this resolution was an aspirational goal and the policy would come out later. Ms. Boisvert asked that language regarding what is defined as renewable energy be included. The strategic plan will be developed over the next few years. The Energy Committee has been working on this

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resolution since last fall. They want to rush the resolution through to take advantage of falling prices of renewable energy infrastructure. Evan Mulholland, Energy Committee member, commented that 70 towns across the US have adopted a similar policy. He also commented on co-locating pollinator habitat with solar and decommissioning. Rich Maher, energy committee member, stated Massachusetts has co-location of solar with agriculture and life span of solar is 25 years. There is a strong case for renewables despite climate change. Chuck Willard, Energy Committee member, said adopt the goal and then figure out the details. Town of Hanover has gone through this process and they will be used as an example. The revised resolution will go before the City Council at the July 9th meeting. Mr. Chormann asked for a succinct definition of the word renewable. Mr. Willard said there is a white paper linked on the City's website which will answer many questions the Commission has. He will forward research material to Ms. Fenstermacher to distribute to the Commission. The Commission asked that the Energy Committee consider postponing the Council hearing until August to give them an opportunity to review the revised document. The Energy Committee plans to move forward with the July date, and will forward a revised document to Ms. Fenstermacher for distribution after the FPAC meeting on June 18th.

5. NHDES items

- a. *NHDOT wetlands permit application for a Major Impact associated with the rehabilitation of two culverts under I-393.***

Mr. Lewis reviewed the plans. No concerns were identified.

- b. *City of Concord wetlands permit for a Minor Impact associated with sewer upgrades.***

EPA has a mandate to update the road for the sewer line along the Morono trail and along the sewer line that ends at Second Start. This will create another trail in the Morono trail system. No concerns were identified.

6. Reports

- a. *Trails Subcommittee***

Matt Bowser attended the Concord Trails Subcommittee meeting on June 13 and presented the new mountain bike trail at Broken Ground. Conservation Committee needs to walk the trail and then have a public meeting. Given the amount of planning already completed, the Commission agreed to start at step 9 on the trails committee work plan so that we do not have to go back to the trails subcommittee before scheduling a site walk and public hearing. The public hearing will be set for the July 11th meeting.

Mr. Klemarczyk, City Forester, reported more rogue trail work and is asking for more enforcement. It would be helpful if more people reported damage to police to raise their awareness during the trails subcommittee.

The structure has been adopted for the trails subcommittee, need to set-up rotation of officers/members. Also need to finalize the trail creation criteria checklist, Commission members should review the checklist and compare to the Open Space Plan. This discussion will be scheduled for the July meeting.

The invasive plant species at the Jim Hill River Walk trail are taking over, Mr. Klemarczyk is recommending herbicide application to be completed in August. Mr. Chormann said there is a nice patch of moccasin flower, i.e. lady slippers, which would not be obvious in August that should be avoided. Ms. Fenstermacher will bring more information on the herbicide treatment location for discussion in July.

- b. *Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee***

No report.

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c. Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee

No report.

d. Forestry

Riley Lot

We have an agreement with Fish and Game for habitat management at the Riley lot. Thinning and reopening the field and herbicide treatments to get rid of invasive plant species will be accomplished in 2019. Fish and Game small grant program will help with funding this work. Ms. Fenstermacher will distribute the proposal to Commission members for more discussion in July.

e. Street Trees

Need to get this committee going. Consider Urban Forestry Plan for the city. Burlington, VT has a plan to use as a model. Corey Keefe is the new Community Forester.

City Council has a street tree policy. A separate conservation committee meeting is needed to set up the framework for the street tree subcommittee, then it would be easier to recruit members.

7. City Open Space

a. Chesley property update

City Council approved the acquisition; legal is working on the deed. Mr. Klemarczyk reported that he was only able to locate one bound and there is a property line discrepancy between the City's GIS map and the deed. The property will be in our possession as soon as the deed is completed and signed by the family.

b. Lassonde land swap update

The City Council approved moving forward last Monday night. The planning board application will be going in next week. Mr. Owers made a motion, Ms. Boisvert second, that we pay the surveyor's bill in full, \$10,500, for his survey and application materials work. The motion passed unanimously.

8. City Council/ Planning Board

Councilor Coen spoke with Dick Lemieux, Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail, and recommended that he come to a meeting to discuss what the Conservation Committee had already done regarding acquiring Pan Am property. Conservation Commission is at an impasse with Pan Am. Mr. Lemieux may come to the August meeting.

Ms. Fenstermacher provided an update of the Cluster subdivision on Carter Hill Road that was reviewed in May. An isolated area of wetlands was flagged but not put on the plan. Since this isolated area of wetlands is less than 3000 sq. ft. it does not require a buffer. The maps were updated with the wetland. Conservation Commission recommends that the wetland boundary be marked for the future owner's awareness.

9. Follow-up/On-going items:

Encroachments on the Richards Community Forest was discussed with the City Solicitor. This is an on-going item.

Mr. Owers made a motion, Mr. Matlage second, to go into nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:3, II(d). By a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously at 9:35 pm.

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Ms. Boisvert made a motion, Mr. Owers second, to come out of non-public session. By a roll call vote, the motion was passed unanimously at 9:52 pm.

Mr. Lewis made a motion, Mr. Chormann second, to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Owers made a motion, Mr. Lewis second, to approve up to \$5,000 for a wetlands evaluation for the ARM grant application for the Country Hill Estates property, and to send the appraisal to the property owners. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Owers will follow up with the property owners.

There being no further business, Mr. Lewis made a motion, Mr. Owers second, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55pm. Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Healy

Secretary Pro-tem