

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

July 13, 2022, 7:00 PM

Council Chambers, 37 Green Street

Attendees: Chair Kristine Tardiff, Members Kathy Healy, Emily Landry, and Alternate Allison McGregor. Councilor Stacey Brown arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Absent: Vice-Chair Jim Owers, Rick Chormann, Jeff Lewis, Chris Kane, and Alternate Mark Coen.

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

Public: Rebecca Ross

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tardiff at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes

June 8, 2022

A motion was made by Ms. Healy, seconded by Ms. Landry, to approve the minutes of June 8, 2022, with edits that do not alter the content of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Stantec Consulting Services, on behalf of Eversource Energy, requests a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for disturbance to a wetland buffer for replacement of transmission poles for property between Shaker Road and Regional Drive and on either side of Garvins Falls Road.

Tom Tetreau from Stantec represented the application.

Mr. Tetreau explained that the project is similar to the April project submitted. He stated that they were notified by Eversource that there are a few structures that need to be addressed within the P135 line. They will be working to address these items as replacement if the Eversource's P145 transmission lines continues. This is the same scenario as the P145 line, the existing structures require replacement due to deterioration from age, cracking, rot, etc. The Conditional Use Permit is required due to impacts to the 50-foot wetland buffer.

Ms. Tardiff noted that the existing structures are wood and are being replaced with steel. Mr. Tetreau confirmed.

Ms. McGregor made a motion, second by Ms. Landry, to recommend approval of the CUP based on the plans reviewed. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Brown arrived.

3. Discussion with Clara Feigelson, UNH Sustainability Fellow

Clara Feigelson, UNH Sustainability Fellow, met with the Commission to explain the Greenhouse Gas Inventory she is currently working on. Also, in attendance were Tree Committee members, Zib Corell, John Regan, and Bob Pollock, and Senior Planner Sam Durfee.

Ms. Feigelson stated that she is working with Jessica Forest, Rob Werner, and Senior Planner Sam Durfee, to update the inventory and address mitigating emissions as a government and a community. She explained that she is using ICLEI Tools to build onto the City's inventory. She provided some

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statistics showing how much carbon dioxide the City's trees are sequestering and storing. It was noted that shrubs should also be included.

Additional discussion was held regarding carbon footprints and what the City should be doing to reduce emissions and offsetting with some type of greenery. It was noted that tree canopy is a focus.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she is hopeful for grants for more plantings and helping residents to plant trees on private property and to protect the canopy. Ms. Feigelson noted that she would look for grants and opportunities and inform the Commission if she should hear of anything.

4. NHDES Items

There were no NHDES items to address.

5. Reports

a. Trails

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Trails Committee did not have a meeting tonight. She reviewed the Trail Ranger position and stated that the position will be posted through the end of the week.

b. Forestry Report

The forestry report was linked.

c. Tree Committee

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the minutes were linked. The next meeting is July 21st. At this time, Mr. Regan is looking into grants. Other items worth noting is the Penacook tree walk report and the tree champion award from the Chamber of Commerce for the fall.

Councilor Brown reported that she is still working on the historical trees project. She plans to take new pictures of trees in the fall and have the artist do paintings for calendars and note cards that could be used for fundraisers and overall awareness. She added that she is still working with Bob Pollock on the tree tour. She commented that they will include environmental values as we want people to start to look at trees differently and for different benefit. She stated that she is hoping to have something for the next meeting.

The Merrimack River Watershed Council held a tree tour of the Big Trees of Concord last week and had a great turn out.

In addition, Councilor Brown noted the Concord High School planting plan for the future at the high school campus. After discussion, it was determined that the students should figure out the location, contact a nursery and present a tree preference for review by the Tree Committee. Ms. Fenstermacher stated that all invoicing should be sent to the Commission.

d. Local River Advisory Committees

There was no update. Ms. Fenstermacher stated that there are vacancies available for representatives on both advisory committees.

6. City Open Space and Easements

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that she went with Five Rivers to map out the proposed exclusion area for the Potter easement. Mark Sargent will be doing the survey. She explained that there needs to

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be a certain percentage of soil types within the conservation area and there may be a chance that the requirements may not be met in the delineated exclusion area, the survey is needed to determine the exact area. The public hearing with City Council is scheduled for August 8.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that on August 17, the State will begin monitoring the easements on the City's conservation lands. Members interested can meet at Merullo Park at 8 a.m. to walk the boundaries.

7. City Council/Planning Board

Ms. Fenstermacher noted that the new draft of the Code has been released. The Commission will plan to discuss the Draft Code at the August meeting.

Ms. Fenstermacher noted that there is no other updates relative to the Planning Board.

8. Follow-up/On-going Items:

a. Conservation Preserves

Nothing new to update.

b. MRGT

Councilor Brown stated that there is a meeting tomorrow for the MRGT Triathlon, scheduled for September 11. A discussion was held regarding the status of the PanAm parcels. Also, a new design is being looked into for the trail at Loudon Road by VHB. Ms. Fenstermacher noted that there has been some discussion held regarding parking and trail development on the 6 Loudon Road property.

c. Education/Outreach

Nothing new to update.

d. Conservation Easement Standard Templates

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the City Solicitor's office has been reviewing the new Code, and questions came up regarding the ownership of open space for cluster developments. The recommendation from the Deputy Solicitor is to address ownership responsibilities in the Easement instead of in the Code. The easement templates will need to be revised. There should be something available to review at the August meeting.

9. Other Business

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that the Merrimack River Watershed Council will be doing a workshop at Merrill Park on August 3, at 4 p.m. on teaching the community how to identify and treat invasive species on their own.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated that on August 9, she will be meeting with Barbara Richards to address the Richards Community Forests, she anticipates Ms. Richards will want to discuss trails on the property. She provided an overview of the property and the circumstances for the easement. Mr. Klemarczyk has indicated that trails are not really feasible on the property.

10. Non-Public Session

Ms. Healy made a motion, second by Ms. Landry, to enter into a non-public session at 8:38 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3, II(e).

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The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote as follows:

Ms. McGregor – in favor

Ms. Healy – in favor

Ms. Landry – in favor

Ms. Tardiff – in favor

Ms. Landry made a motion, second by Ms. Healy, to come out of non-public session at 9:15 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3, II(e).

The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote as follows:

Ms. McGregor – in favor

Ms. Healy – in favor

Ms. Landry – in favor

Ms. Tardiff – in favor

Ms. McGregor made a motion, second by Ms. Landry, to seal the minutes of the non-public session, per RSA 91-A:5, IV.

The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote as follows:

Ms. McGregor – in favor

Ms. Healy – in favor

Ms. Landry – in favor

Ms. Tardiff – in favor

Ms. McGregor made a motion, second by Ms. Landry, to appropriate \$3,000 for professional services and to grant Ms. Tardiff full authority to represent the Commission on any legal proceedings to settle the case.

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Healy made a motion, second by Ms. Landry, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fellows-Weaver

Administrative Specialist