

Rochester Conservation Commission

Minutes of January 22, 2020

(These minutes were approved on February 26, 2020)

Members Present:

Mark Jennings
Dan Nickerson

Barbara Soley
Mike Dionne

Sheila Lulek
Kevin Sullivan

Meredeth Lineweber

Members Absent:

Michael Kirwan

Staff: Seth Creighton, Chief Planner

Mr. Dionne convened the meeting at 6:30 pm

- 1.) Minutes:** the meeting minutes of October 23, 2019 were reviewed, with edits suggested.

Ms. Lineweber made a motion to accept the minutes with the discussed edits and Mr. Sullivan seconded. The motion passed.

- 2.) Conservation Overlay District:** NONE.

- 3.) NH DES Wetland/Shore land Applications:** a) **Eversource Pole/Line Replacement.**

The Commission reviewed the information.

Ms. Lineweber made a motion that work be done only when it is dry or frozen conditions, Ms. Soley seconded. The motion passed.

b) City of Rochester Portland Street Culvert Replacement. Aaron Lachance, Engineer with Hoyle & Tanner Associates explained there are two replacement culverts that will be replacing poorly aligned and corroded culverts. The Commission asked for protected outlets. Mr. Lachance said they will use rip rap outlets. The Commission said that large rip rap would impede turtle movement. The Commission asked for a large natural bottom culvert; Mr. Lachance said that existing water lines and gas lines don't allow for installation of a larger culvert.

Mr. Nickerson made a motion to approve with the condition that NH DES receive a letter stating their suggestions, Mr. Jennings seconded. The motion passed.

c) City of Rochester Route 202A Waterline Extension. Mr. Creighton explained that a new water tower is proposed off Bickford Rd, and the waterlines from this will follow the existing roads right-of-way, and as such there will be some temporary disturbance of roadside wetlands. He explained that most of these wetlands are immediately adjacent to the roads and as such have limited functions and values.

The Commission didn't have any concerns.

Mr. Dionne made a motion to accept as presented, Ms. Lineweber seconded. The motion passed.

d) City of Rochester Four Rod Road Ricker's Brook Culvert Replacement. Mr. Lachance explained this culvert qualifies as a bridge. He said this is a repair project because the culvert is rotten and one level away from being forced to be closed. Mr. Lachance went on to explain the

proposed repair is to spray the inside with a polymer lining which will last 10 to 15 years. NHDES said they will consider but would require mitigation \$25,000 for ARM fund.

Mr. Jennings asked about installing baffles. Mr. Lachance said they are already under hydraulic capacity so they can't add more restrictive material. Mr. Lachance went on to say a one million dollar bridge is the answer.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to support as is with the condition the applicant correctly fix the crossing in the near future and NHDES considers allowing ARM contribution to be used for design and/or put in escrow account, Mr. Jennings seconded. The motion passed.

4.) Discussion: Potential Hurd Brook Restoration along Brock Street.

Jarred Jones, Conservation Specialist, NH Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services, NH Army National Guard explained they saw opportunity to add large woody additions to Hurd Brook. He said they have funding to do the portion of the brook that runs through the National Guard property, and has Trout Unlimited onboard to help. He would like to do a stream cleanup too because there are so many tires. He said they would like to partner with schools and the City. Mr. Jones added there is very fine sediment in the brook, and its source should be addressed.

The Commission discussed notifying property owners where the brook continues upstream, and asking the River Walk Committee, the schools, and the Boy/Girl Scouts if they want to be involved. Mr. Creighton said that he spoke to a landowner that would be interested in continuing these efforts onto further upstream where the brook is on his property. Mr. Dionne said NH Fish and Game will be partnering too.

Mr. Jones thanked the commission for their time and said he would talk to his team to see if this can happen in the next year.

5.) Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber/Intent to Excavate: a) Notice of Intent to Cut – Tax Map 215-17, 106 Ten Rod Road b) Notice of Intent to Cut – Tax Map 220-24, 98 Ten Rod Road.

The Commission didn't have any concerns.

6.) New Business: a) Ms. Lineweber told the Commission she saw a story on the Emerald Ash Borer on TV and reminded the members that these beetles bore D-shaped holes in the tree. b) Ms. Lineweber told the Commission she saw a documentary about some of New York's conserved land/farms and growing specialty vegetables and raising specialty animals, and that the farmers said none of this would be possible if the land wasn't conserved and was priced at market value.

7.) Reports: a) Mr. Jennings gave an update to the Commission on the items that went before the TRG.

b) Mr. Creighton gave an update on some of the things the Planning Board is working on. He said the Downtown Master Plan is being worked on and they are looking at adding green infrastructure in some areas.

Rochester Conservation Commission

Minutes of January 22, 2020

(These minutes were approved on February 26, 2020)

8.) Old Business: Mr. Jennings and Mr. Creighton gave the Commission an update regarding the Hope Farm annual monitoring. They reported that the farm was abiding by the easement. They also noted that the owner is contemplating some improvements (new driveway and greenhouse) but is aware that these must meet the easement restrictions, and that he will submit proposed sketches before implementing these.

9.) Non-Public Session *pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (d): Discussion of acquisition of real property and/or recent site walks LACE Sheets:* A motion was made by Mr. Dionne to enter into to non-public at 8:31pm and seconded by Mr. Sullivan. The motion passed. At 9:33 the regular meeting reconvened.

10.) Adjournment: Ms. Soley motioned to adjourn at 9:33pm, and Mr. Nickerson seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Creighton, AICP
Chief Planner