



## City of Rochester Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday October 26, 2022**

Rochester Police Department (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
23 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

(These minutes were approved on November 30, 2022)

### Attendance

Presence	Name	Notes
Present	Mike Dionne, <i>Chair</i>	
Present	Kevin Sullivan, <i>Vice Chair</i>	
Present	Mark Jennings	
-	Mike Kirwan	Excused
Present	Merry Lineweber	
-	Dan Nickerson	Excused
Present	Barbara Soley	
Present	Renée McIsaac, <i>Planner I</i>	
Present	Ryan O'Connor, <i>Senior Planner</i>	

Darren Scopel	Spaulding HS teacher
Lucia Wondal	UNH Student presenter
Ted Walsh	NHDES Surface Water Monitoring Coordinator

### I. Call to Order:

Mr. Dionne called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

### II. Approval of Minutes:

A copy of the meeting notes was not provided and will be reviewed in the next scheduled meeting.

### III. Student Presentation:

Lucia Wondal is currently enrolled at UNH and is a Spaulding High School graduate. While at Spaulding she conducted a study on the potential impacts of road salt on aquatic organisms. She presented her findings from her Willow Brook Chloride Study.

The four brook areas included in her study were the Monarch School (on Eastern Avenue), Golick's Dairy Bar, Ice Arena (on Lowell St) and Old Dover Rd. She collected samples for testing when there was a precipitation event and the temperature was above or near the freezing point. Water samples were tested for turbidity, conductivity and chloride levels.

She also collected macroinvertebrates in the fall and spring. She compared types of macroinvertebrates recovered to a biotic index for organism groups associated with pollution.

During her review of road treatment options, she found that the most economical option was a mix of salt and sand.

She concluded that road salt does contribute to an increase in the water's salinity. She also found that busier routes were more impacted. She felt that impervious surfaces and topography influenced the amount of runoff and in turn the salinity of the water. She could not draw definitive conclusions on how macroinvertebrates were affected.

Lucia agreed to provide a copy of her presentation so that other City staff members may be able to review the findings.

Mike Dionne spoke briefly about his experience using the Green SnowPro technologies. He indicated that the technology is very effective and works well.

Kevin Sullivan was interested in understanding how the chloride levels fluctuated over time. He indicated that Rainbow smelt are negatively impacted by salt runoff (they are March spawners).

Ryan O'Connor suggested the Commission could make Green SnowPro applicators a condition of approval for new developments that contain critical habitats.

#### **IV. Conservation Overlay District:**

Discussion postponed until a site walk can be completed. Tentatively scheduled for Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00pm.

#### **V. NH DES Wetland / Shoreland Applications:**

- a. Alteration of Terrain Permit: Bayberry Commons, Tax Map 131 Lot 10; AOT-2230. Permit has been approved by NHDES.
- b. Utility Maintenance Statutory Permit-by-Notification: replacement of wood poles along lines 32 and 371.  
No additional comments or concerns.

#### **VI. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber / Intent to Excavate:**

- a. Intent to Cut: Tax Map 258 Lot 63; 6 acres. Permit #22-389-06-T.  
Mike Dionne has seen the equipment in the field.
- b. Intent to Cut: Tax Map 247 Lot 54 and 55; ±10 acres. Permit #22-389-07-T.  
Dan Nickerson reviewed and had no concerns.

No additional comments or concerns.

#### **VII. New Business:**

- a. Member contact information on file was reviewed.
- b. Identify the top 10 priority conservation projects for 2023.

The Conservation Commission discussed some areas of exploration that could help in determining projects to be prioritized. The following were identified for further consideration.

1. Partnering with DPW for funding improvement projects. Renée will request a project priority list from DPW. If possible, the list should include the project name, location and estimated cost.
2. Reaching out to Ian Rohrbacher (Chief Operator of the Rochester Water Treatment Facility) about potential partnerships on aquifer protection projects. Renée will contact Ian.
3. Reviewing the status of sites that were previously considered for acquisition. Ryan O'Connor volunteered to initiate a conversation.

4. Reviewing areas where potential improvements could be made for the handling of stormwater.
  5. Working with residents to promote better stormwater management practices on their property. Potential solutions include implementation of rain barrels and rain gardens.
- c. ARM Fund project proposal ideas for 2023.
- The Commission will review priority projects that may meet the funding definition for potential application.
- d. NH Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan requests for assistance.
- The Commission is interested in this opportunity. Renée will send a request for assistance.
- e. Potential for pursuing Hurd Brook restoration activities as previously discussed in January of 2020.
- Mike Dionne will reach out to John McGee at NH Fish and Game for assistance.

### **VIII. Reports**

- a. Mark Jennings provided an overview of projects in the Technical Review Group stage of the Planning Board process.
- b. Ryan O'Connor reported on the status of the Planning Board Review.

### **IX. Old Business:**

Conservation Subdivision review discussion.  
Kevin suggested putting together a brief description of our intent and reaching out to the ZBA to see if there was interest in pursuing further.

### **X. Non-Public Session: None**

### **XI. Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Kevin Sullivan and seconded by Mike Dionne to adjourn at 8:43pm; the motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Renee McIsaac  
Planner I