**Rochester Conservation Commission**

Minutes of the September 12, 2015

Special Meeting – Site Walk

*Approved 10/28/15*

Members Present:

Deborah Shigo, Chair

Michael Dionne, Vice Chair

Mark Jennings

Roger Burkhart

Kevin Sullivan

Jack Hackett

Members Absent:

Michael Kirwan

Merry Lineweber

Staff:

Seth Creighton, Chief Planner

**Merry Lineweber was present, she stated that she would like to walk the properties, but wouldn’t be able to, so she would not be attending the sitewalk. The chair convened the site walk meeting at 8:11 a.m.**

**1) The Ridge Development – Phase II:** Engineer Ken Mavrogeorge from Tighe and Bond and wetland scientist Luke Hurley from Gove Environmental Services welcomed the Commission and stated they would be representing the developer today.

The representatives walked the commission through the property and explained where the wetlands were, and where development was proposed. The Commission asked lots of questions and offered opinions about what areas to avoid impacting (primarily the stream and its buffer, and the large wetlands at the rear and middle of the property).

Removal of an old stone box culvert, which is under a woods road towards the front of the property, was discussed; all parties agreed that this should be replaced with a much larger culvert.

A large dirt stockpile located near the power lines was discussed and Con Com asked if that had been permitted; the representatives explained that the developer didn’t have permits and was working to remove it.

The Commission encouraged the representatives to revise the plan and submit more detailed wetland and drainage reports so that they could offer a complete opinion.

**2) 8,000 sq. ft. next to Wal-Mart in Phase I:** Mr. Burkhart and Mr. Dionne excused themselves from this site walk.

The representatives explained that this wetland was a non-impacted wetland, yet based on the intense excavation and wetland impacts (all permitted) in the vicinity, this wetland had essentially dried up, but that NH DES was still considering the original delineated wetland as wetland.

The Commission noted that this area has little to no value, but was not pleased that the permitted nearby activities had impacted this wetland, and stated that this ‘cause and effect’ should have been known during the initial wetland impact review which occurred years ago.

The Commission noted that any mitigation required by this impact should stay in Rochester.

**3) Adjournment:** *At 10:38 am. A motion was made Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms Shigo to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Creighton,

Chief Planner