

# **Rochester Conservation Commission**

## **Minutes of the February 27, 2013 Meeting**

### Members Present:

Deborah Shigo, Chair  
Michael Dionne, Vice Chair  
Jack Hackett  
Mark Jennings

### Member Excused:

Meredeth Lineweber

### Member Absent:

Jeff Winders

Staff: Caroline Lewis, Recording Secretary

**Minutes:** The regular minutes of the January 23, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Mark Jennings made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Michael Dionne. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Conservation Overlay District - Conditional Use Review:**

None to discuss.

### **Dredge and Fill Applications:**

#### **DOT Park & Ride/Washington Street/Rte 202**

This project had been before the Commission last month. The Chair has received word from DOT that the mitigation amount will be going into the ARM fund, as Rochester does not have a suitable project ready at this time.

### **Discussion:**

#### **ZBA Case 2013-07/McGroen Partners LLC/120-122 Washington Street/Map 123 Lot 65 & 66 Norway Plains Associates and Mr. Fenton Groen**

Mr. Art Nickless, Norway Plains Associates and his client Mr. Groen addressed the Commission. Mr. Nickless gave a brief history of the site and handed out a tax map showing the stream through this property, an existing features plan and a proposed site plan.

The Commission members, Mr. Nickless and Mr. Groen discussed the drainage, parking, location of building, type of soil on the site, proposed wetland fill, retaining wall, guard rail, dumpster location, number of parking spaces, snow storage, wild trout, the prior proposed project for the corner lot, sub surface drainage, shade trees for the brook, the look of the 3 story building, and other issues.

The members discussed their concerns; Jack Hackett stating they would prefer less pavement in the buffer, but thought this would dress up that corner. Mark Jennings noted he was opposed to the other plan, and felt this one was 300% better. Michael Dionne said he thinks the sub surface drainage would work and thinks the Planning Board should consider requesting trees be planted on the side of the brook to help the trout population. The Chair stated she would like not so much stuff in the buffer.

Mr. Groen informed the members he already has possible tenants for the building, one being the orthodontist who submitted the prior plan. He stated this will be an attractive "gateway" building, and Mr. Nickless noted this is about the only way to use this property due to the way the buffer cuts across the parcel.

Mark Jennings made a motion for the Chair to write a letter in support of this project, with a recommendation that shade trees be left and/or planted on the side of the brook. Michael Dionne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Sheepboro Road Issues/Farmington Conservation Commission/Rochester DPW rep.**  
Mr. David Connolly, Chairman of the Farmington Conservation Commission, and Don Gray, Rochester Department of Public Works were both in attendance to discuss trash being dumped in the Sheepboro Road area.

The Chair, Deb Shigo, had attended a meeting in Farmington and invited both Mr. Connolly and Mr. Gray to attend this meeting to discuss this problem that has an affect on the Rochester water supply.

Mr. Connolly explained they have had appliances, tires, couches, TVs, and other trash dumped around the reservoir and Whale Back Pond area. Mr. Gray stated they try to be prompt in getting things picked up, and have put boulders in all the access ways to prevent anyone from driving onto the side roads.

Mr. Connolly informed the Commission members that about three years ago, they started installing cameras to monitor the trash dumping. He said they have seven cameras in place and have had 7 arrests, 6 convictions, and one outstanding warrant for someone who left the area. This system does work.

The members and Mr. Connolly and Mr. Gray discussed the charges for trash dumping, the fines, disposal fees, notification signage, the types of trash being dumped, who is doing the dumping, why they are doing the dumping, and other issues.

Mr. Connolly stated the cost of entire camera set up is \$300.00 (this includes the camera and a security case, the only ongoing cost is for batteries) He stated they have at least one camera they could give to Rochester in exchange for a donation to the Farmington Conservation Commission.

Mr. Gray stated Public Works has a list of all businesses in that area that they contact to be sure they are using good management practices regarding their trash. And every three years or so a letter goes out to all land owners about dealing with their trash.

Mr. Gray thinks Public Works might be able to fund one or two cameras to be placed in the area.

Mark Jennings made a motion to make a donation of \$300.00 to the Farmington Conservation Commission in exchange for one camera set up and help with installation. Michael Dionne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Michael Dionne stated he would be willing to go with Mr. Connolly and Mr. Gray later in the spring to find spots for installing of at least one camera, possibly two or three.

### **Cocheco River Sweep – May 11, 2013**

The Chair noted information she received from Lori Chase about the Cocheco Paddle for this year (scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup>). Ms. Chase said they are thinking of doing the Farmington to Rochester section this year. The Chair is not sure if things will work out for a joint effort this year or not, but Mr. Connolly stated Ms. Chase is scheduled to come to one of their future Conservation Commission meetings. The members discussed this annual “river sweep” of cleaning up the river while enjoying a canoe trip.

The Commission members thanked Mr. Connolly for coming and the Chair stated she will be in touch with him in the near future.

### **Monitoring Report – Whitecrest property**

The Chair informed Mr. Gray about receiving an email from Holly Green about a monitoring report that needs to be done on a property referred to as “Whitecrest”. This property is in both Rochester and Barrington, and Barrington did the last monitoring report, however they have said they don’t have any budget to do one this year. Mr. Gray is not familiar with this property, but he will contact Holly Green to get more information.

The members and Mr. Gray discussed beaver dams, culverts on Dry Hill Road, drainage, Howard brook water, and other issues.

The members thanked Mr. Gray for coming to the meeting.

### **Violations:**

Gear Road (Map 259 Lot 1)

Jack Hackett had pictures of piles of horse manure that is being dumped in the ditch, in the City right of way, on Gear Road. He stated he has been to the Code Enforcement Office and they haven’t done anything. The Chair took the pictures and stated she will talk to Codes.

### **Correspondence:**

- a) NHDES Letter/Alteration of Terrain/Highfield Commons/Map 237 Lot
- b) NHDOT/Letter/Roadway and Railway Maintenance/Old Dover Road
- c) NHDES Letter/Winter Stabilization Plan Approval/Highfield Commons/Map 237 Lot 3

The members discussed the correspondence, but had not specific questions or concerns.

### **Old Business:**

RFQ Discussion and modifications regarding Conservation Land Inventories

The members discussed an RFQ that the City of Dover had used when they wanted someone to do an inventory of the conservation lands in Dover. After some discussion by the members, it was decided that the recording secretary will do up an RFQ using this one as a template, replacing Dover with Rochester, deleting the grant references, and with a blank time line graph. The Rochester RFQ will be mailed out in the March packets and discussed at the March Conservation Commission meeting.

### **New Business:**

#### **Member Drive/High School Students**

The Chair informed the members that when she attended the Farmington Conservation Commission meeting, she learned they have 3 high school students there as non-voting members, working on school projects for Environmental Science credit.

She asked Mark Jennings to approach Great Bay about this possibility, and Jack Hackett suggested Meredeth Lineweber could check with Spaulding High School too. (Jack volunteered to go with Meredith).

The Chair also asked each member to try to invite at least one person they know to join the Conservation Commission. We need more members.

**Other Business:**

**Public Relations:**

This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

**SUR mitigation project – Brock Street & Rte 125**

Each member had been given a copy of the report from Stoney Ridge Environmental LLC. The Chair informed the members that Tracey doesn't work for Stoney Ridge any longer, but Cynthia Balcuis sent out the report, and will send another report once the work is completed in the spring. The members all agree the site looks much better.

**Monitoring Report Smith-Berube property**

The Chair stated this needs to be done as soon as possible, as it should have been done in 2012. She would like someone to go with her to walk the property and help with completing this report. Jack Hackett stated he would be willing to go walk the property with her, and Mark Jennings showed some interest as well. This will be added to the March and April agendas to be sure a site walk time gets scheduled in early spring.

**Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber**

The recording secretary asked what should be done with these forms when they are received in the Planning Department. The members discussed the reason the forms started coming to the Conservation Commission in the first place. Possibly to have knowledge of any cutting on property abutting conservation land, or land that the Conservation Commission was interesting in conserving. The consensus is the recording secretary will bring the forms to the meetings as they come in, for review by the members.

**2013 Local Energy Solutions Conference – April 13, 2013**

The Chair has information on this conference and plans to attend. The recording secretary will find out if there is any cost, and put information in the March meeting packets.

**Non-Public Discussion Pursuant to RSA 91-a:3 II (d):**

**Discussion of acquisition of real property.**

Several properties to discuss

Jeff Winders had several properties to discuss, however, it will until next month as Jeff is not here this evening.

**Adjournment:**

At 8:30 p.m. Jack Hackett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark Jennings. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Lewis  
Recording Secretary