

Rochester Conservation Commission

Minutes of the July 24, 2013 Meeting

(Approved August 28, 2013)

Members Present:

Deborah Shigo, Chair
Michael Dionne, Vice Chair (arrived 6:50)
Meredeth Lineweber
Mark Jennings (left at 8:00)
Jeff Winders (arrived 6:35)

Member Excused:

Jack Hackett

Staff: Caroline Lewis, Recording Secretary

The Chair convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes: The regular and non public meeting minutes of June 26nd were reviewed. Mark Jennings made a motion to accept both meetings minutes, seconded by Meredeth Lineweber. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Gretchen Young, Public Works, Regarding Grant application/Aquifer Protection

Ms. Gretchen Young addressed the Conservation Commission. She explained she was at the meeting to talk about obtaining a grant that would provide information that could be used to modify the existing Aquifer Protection Zone.

Ms. Young handed out maps, the first one showing the existing Aquifer Protection Zone in Rochester. She explained how the original area was delineated in 1982, and is what the City of Rochester is using for their Aquifer Protection Zone at this time. She had plans by Emery & Garrett Groundwater, Inc, that showed the source water protection area delineated 2003-2007 and a plan that showed potential groundwater development zones plan identified in 2000. She also had a plan that showed the city wide groundwater transitivity based on USGS water resources investigation report 90-4161. Ms. Young informed the Board this is a source water grant that would be applied for by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, and does not require a money match. A committee would be formed to discuss possible modifications to the existing zone.

The members and Ms. Young discussed if this would have an affect on land owner's rights, the wording in the current ordinance, the amount of the grant (\$20,000.00), the source of the funds, and other issues. Jeff Winders stated he has maps showing well sites in mobile home parks and other information that would be useful to Ms. Young. He will get the maps to her as soon as possible.

The recording secretary informed the members that the Planning Board was reviewing the Ordinance but not doing anything with the overlay districts, which include the Aquifer Protection ordinance.

Ms. Young noted if the ordinance were modified, there could be a provision for the Conservation Commission to review projects in the Aquifer Protection District.

Celeste Plaia, City employee, was present at the meeting. She stated she had wanted to see what the reaction of the Conservation Commission would be regarding this grant, as some members of the Planning Board reacted negatively.

Mark Jennings made a motion that the Chair of the Conservation Commission write a letter to the Strafford Regional Planning Commission in support of applying for this grant. Deborah Shigo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The members thanked Ms. Young for her presentation.

Rte 11 Park

The Chair went thru the area, found it very, very wet, overgrown, and insect infected. The members discussed uses for this area again, stating some of it is flood plain, the water doesn't move it just percolates, doing a timber cut on the upland area, opening up the area and installing lights to make it safer, picnic tables, and issues that were discussed at the previous meeting.

Monitoring properties – LeClair and Smith-Berube

The Chair and Jack Hackett spent over three hours at the Smith-Berube property. They saw three heron nests, and some really bad trail marking. The monitoring has been done, and land looks nice.

The Chair and Michael Dionne scheduled the monitoring of the LeClair property for Sunday, August 4th at 9 am. Any members are welcome to go on this walk. The address is 436 Sheepboro Road.

Conservation Overlay District - Conditional Use Review:

None to discuss.

Dredge and Fill Applications:

City of Rochester/Map 128 Lots 53 & 54/2 & 8 Plante Street/Culvert replacement

This application had been received after the packets were sent out. The members reviewed the application and discussed the size of the new culvert. The Chair signed for the Conservation Commission.

Violations:

Emmanuel Advent Church – Eastern Avenue – Map 117 Lot 51

The Chair has checked out this area, and it is the PSNH easement area, and the work is all above board. The members discussed mulch being put in the drainage area, and Meredeth Lineweber will speak to the woman who is in charge of the Church grounds, letting her know not to put mulch in those areas.

Correspondence:

- a) NHDES Letter/Map 237 Lot 8-1 Alteration of Terrain Permit/Highfield Commons
- b) Workshops/Summer Erosion Control Field Days/August 6-7 & 8

The members reviewed the correspondence, and noted the locations for the workshop were all a fair distance away.

Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber

Map 237 Lot 8-1 Fillmore Blvd (Highfield Commons)
Map 250 Lot 38 Whitehouse Road and Old Dover Road

The members reviewed the intent to cut forms, and stated that Mr. Sanborn was just clearing some land for more fields for the son to work for crops.

Reports:

TRG Meetings

There is no member of the Commission available to attend the TRG meetings at this time.

Old Business:

Student Participation

Mark Jennings will email Professor Wilson in the fall to discuss his environmental studies students attending some Conservation Commission meetings as part of their course.

Meredeth Lineweber stated she has spoken to someone about this and will follow up in the fall.

Other Business:

Brock Street Project

The members discussed the drainage and silt fence at the Rte 125 end of Brock Street. The Chair will be speaking to the Commissioner of Public Works, Peter Nourse, and will discuss this with him. She stated she had checked on the silt fence on the Groen project on the Rte 202 end of Brock Street, and the silt fence was working in that location.

The members discussed the type of catch basins being used on City projects, the storm water management issues, future mandates and fines, and making Public Works more aware.

Seth Creighton, Planner I

The recording secretary advised the members Mr. Creighton would be starting with the Planning Department in August, and would be attending the August Conservation Commission meeting.

Chris Kane project

The Chair asked if Mr. Kane has been to the Planning Department to review files. The recording secretary stated he had been paid for his first invoice, and was doing some other research, but should be coming in to the Planning Department in the next couple of weeks. The City will be issuing both Mr. Kane and his associate IDs to wear while working on this project.

**Non-Public Discussion Pursuant to RSA 91-a:3 II (d):
Discussion of acquisition of real property.**

At 7:25 p.m. Mark Jennings made a motion to go into non-public session. Jeff Winders seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:08 p.m. Mike Dionne made a motion to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes. Jeff Winders seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

At 8:09 p.m. Mike Dionne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Meredeth Lineweber. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Lewis
Recording Secretary