



## City of Rochester Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday November 15, 2023**

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

(These minutes were approved on December 20, 2023)

### Attendance

Presence	Commission Member	Notes	Members of the Public
Present	Mike Dionne, <i>Chair</i>		
Present	Kevin Sullivan, <i>Vice Chair</i>		
Present	Mark Jennings		
Present	Merry Lineweber		
Present	Dan Nickerson		
Present	Dylan Dowe		
Present	Dennis Raymond, <i>Alternate</i>		
Present	Renée Mclsaac, <i>Planner I</i>		

#### 1) **Call to Order:**

Mike Dionne called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

#### 2) **Approval of Minutes:**

##### a. Review Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2023.

Kevin Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes as drafted. Dylan Dowe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

##### b. Review Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2023.

Dan Nickerson made a motion to accept the minutes as drafted. Dylan Dowe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

#### 3) **Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber:**

Intent to Cut: Tax Map 0129 Lot 0001 (133 Brock Street); 23-389-05-T

Notice was received after the timber harvest. There were no additional concerns.

#### 4) **New Business:**

##### a. Potential development with buffer impacts (17 Farmington Rd – Tax Map 221 Lot 164)

Renée Mclsaac stated that the representative for this project requested discussion be postponed to the next meeting.

##### b. BCM Environmental & Land Law – Gonic Dam and Sawmill Dam Removal

Renée Mclsaac stated that the representative for this project requested discussion be postponed to the next meeting. Members talked briefly about the potential effort for monitoring the site.

#### 5) **Reports:**

##### a. Technical Review

Mark Jennings talked briefly about the proposal at 324 Blackwater Road. He reminded members that the site walk is scheduled for 9am on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned that the TRG provided comment on the conceptual review for the proposed residential expansion at Hemingway Drive.

**b. Planning Board Review**

Renée McIsaac informed the Commission that the Planning Board approved the proposal for the 797 Portland Street project.

**c. NHACC Annual Meeting**

Renée McIsaac provided a brief overview of the sessions attended at the annual meeting. She stated the presentation Protecting the Little Big Forest was interesting because it was a successful project that was executed on a short timeline and used marketing tactics to reach their goal. She mentioned attending the Trails for People and Wildlife session, that it is a tool for evaluating trail location in relation to sensitive landscapes. The last session attended was the Restoring Streams Naturally with Wood. She stated the presentation was interesting and showed the benefits of this practice. She also mentioned some attendees spoke about concerns with large woody material in rivers causing issues.

Dylan Dowe gave a brief overview of the sessions attended. He attended the Global Stake of Climate and Clean Energy and there was a lot of discussion about strategies for energy from a global to local scale. The next session attended was Conserving the NH Mahoosucs. He stated it was interesting because it was a small community with little funds, but they worked with various agencies to conserve 4,600 acres. This conservation area serves to protect the Androscoggin River Basin. The last session he attended dealt with natural resource inventories. The presentation was led by Moosewood Ecological and there were discussions about better methods for inventorying and using data.

**d. Cocheco River LAC**

Mark Jennings gave a brief update on projects being reviewed by the Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee. He mentioned in Farmington there is an old excavation site that is being considered for a housing development. He briefly discussed a plan for bridge rehabilitation in Dover that is near exit 9 on Route 16.

**6) Old Business:**

**a. Cocheco River clean-up planning**

Renée McIsaac stated Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> has tentatively been identified for this event. Before this can be officially promoted, outreach will need to be conducted to gain the support of the area residents. Merry Lineweber volunteered to assist with this effort.

**b. Trails update**

Renée McIsaac stated she is still working with the Seacoast Mountain Bike Association to evaluate trail development at the Route 11 easement site. She is also planning to schedule a conference call with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to discuss potential trail access at the Champlin Forest.

She stated she attended the New Hampshire Rail Trail Collaborative conference. She is interested in what potential improvements could be made with the Farmington Rail Trail. She would like to see more opportunities for connections to businesses for trail users.

Mike Dionne stated a concern that there may be additional use restrictions on sections of the rail trail due to previous funding mechanisms. Otherwise, he was

very supportive of increasing connectivity and trail awareness. Renée McIsaac stated she would look into potential use restrictions.

c. Tax Map 258 Lot 55 (55 Gear Road) Initial Wetland Restoration Monitoring Report  
Commission members did not have additional concerns with the report.

d. Tax Map 210 Lot 64 (Flat Rock Bridge Road) Wetland Restoration Plan  
Commission members did not have additional concerns about the plan.

**7) Adjournment.**

A motion was made by Merry Lineweber and seconded by Dan Nickerson to adjourn at 7:51pm; the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Renee McIsaac  
Planner I