

# Rochester Conservation Commission

Minutes of February 28, 2018

Approved 3-28-18

## Members Present:

Mike Dionne

Meredeth Lineweber

Mark Jennings

Sheila Lulek

## Members Absent:

Jack Hackett

Kevin Sullivan

Barbara Soley

Michael Kirwan

Staff: Seth Creighton, Chief Planner

Mr. Dionne convened the meeting at 6:38pm

## **1. NH DES Wetland Impact Application:**

- a) Quantum Real Estate Group, LLC, 156 Old Dover Road (by Trittech Engineering Corp.) 17-Lot subdivision.

Professional Engineer Bob Stowell from TriTech Engineering gave an overview of the proposed subdivision. He explained that there is an intermittent stream and that the road is proposed to cross it. He explained the design details of the proposed culvert crossing. Wetland and soil scientist Michael Mariano explained why the stream is classified as an intermittent stream.

Mr. Jennings asked for clarification on lot numbers shown on the plan; Mr. Stowell noted the typos and clarified the lot numbers. Mr. Dionne asked about access to lot 9.

Mr. Cliff Newton a nearby, but not abutting resident asked if the public could comment on this application. Mr. Creighton said informed him this is a public meeting, not a public hearing, so public comment is not a right. Mr. Newton said that is incorrect and said that RSA 91-A says so; Mr. Creighton said that Mr. Newton's statement is incorrect; Mr. Newton repeated his previous comment; Mr. Creighton asked Mr. Newton to stop speaking so that he could finish speaking. Mr. Creighton continued by stating that the Chairman could choose to allow public comment. Mr. Dionne stated he would allow such. Mr. Creighton offered Mr. Newton to visit the Planning Department to discuss applicable RSA's.

Mr. Creighton suggested that the Commission review the culvert grade, size, and proposed size of the rocks called for at the inlet, outlet, and inside of the culvert. Mr. Dionne asked about these. Mr. Stowell addressed each item. Mr. Dionne also asked about the wetlands up and downstream of this stream; Mr. Mariano explained the characteristics of these wetlands and the surrounding topography. Mr. Jennings asked where the final outlet of this wetland complex is; Ms. Lineweber and Mr. Stowell said it is well offsite but is at the Cocheco River.

Ms. Taryn Chasse-Decken of 162 Old Dover Rd, a direct abutter had several comments regarding test pit data, lot numbering, drainage, offsite wetlands, and comments about professionalism of the developer and engineer. Mr. Creighton and Mr. Dionne reminded the public and the Commission members that the comments have to be focused on the NH DES stream crossing application.

Ms. Michele Bourasso of 12 Laura Drive, not a direct abutter, said that she and those on Laura Drive are concerned with drainage impacts and tree cutting. Mr. Creighton said the Assistant City Engineer has reviewed the proposal and determined that the drainage standards are being met. Mr. Creighton said that Laura Drive is also 80 feet higher in elevation than this culvert crossing and thus a drainage impact to Laura Drive is not imaginable in any circumstance. Mr. Creighton also stated

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that the Commission should stay focused on the stream crossing and can't comment on tree cutting unless directly linked to the stream crossing.

Mr. Dionne motioned to have Mr. Creighton write a letter to NH DES asking the Wetland Bureau to:

- 1) Review the proposal to ensure that the proposed stone called for at the inlet, in the culvert, and at the outlet will not prohibit movement of terrestrial animals.
- 2) Review the proposed slope of the culvert to determine that it is appropriate.
- 3) Be aware that abutters and nearby residents are concerned with water flows on and from this property.

Mr. Jennings seconded the motion.

Mr. Dionne motioned to amend the motion to add into the letter that NH DES be aware that the City's technical staff have reviewed this proposal and determined that it conforms to local land use and stormwater standards.

Mr. Jennings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **2. Minutes:** Review Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2018.

The minutes of January 24, 2018 were reviewed and edits suggested. A motion to approve the minutes with changes was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Lulek, all voted in favor.

## **3. Discussion:**

a) Aquatic Resource Mitigation Grant Application – tips learned from attendance at NH DES workshop

Mr. Creighton, Ms. Lulek and Mr. Jennings explained what they had learned from recent workshop on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The Commission discussed what property characteristics would need to exist in order to be competitive for this grant. The Commission suggested that DPW review this grant opportunity to see if there are culvert replacements that could be funded. The Commission suggested reaching out to other professionals to ask for advice/assistance on this grant application.

## **4. New Business:**

a) Review of bylaws. The Commission recognizes that their bylaws need to be updated. They began reviewing the bylaws but continued this matter to the next meeting.

## **5. Old Business:**

a) School/Conservation Commission Partnership – water quality monitoring  
Planning Dept staff said he followed up with NH DES and a teacher from Spaulding High School regarding having volunteers conduct water quality monitoring. NH DES was excited to partner with the City to collect water data, of specifically interest is the Cocheco River, the High School is also very interested. Two Commission members said they would be volunteers for this. Staff will invite NH DES to the next meeting.

b) Possible open house at Ten Rod Farm  
Planning Dept staff has been working with the Commission and Matt Scruton, owner of Ten Rod Farm, to find a mutual date to hold an open house at this farm; the purpose is to showcase to the public the land area that was conserved using local and outside funds. Staff explained that Mr. Scruton will be boiling and selling maple syrup on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and that the Commission is

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welcome to join then but tours of the land couldn't be given due to muddy conditions. The Commission decided that a later date (yet to be determined) would work better.

**6. Reports:** a) Technical Review Group: The Commission's liaison to TRG said that the items currently under review by TRG did not warrant the Commission's review.

b) Planning Board: Planning Dept staff said that NH DES had issued a wetlands permit to the 24 Jeremiah Lane proposal and that the subdivision application would be heard again by the Planning Board on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Adjournment:** Ms. Lulek motioned to adjourn at 8:45pm; Mr. Dionne seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Creighton, Chief Planner