

# City of Rochester Conservation Commission

Wednesday April 25, 2018

City Council Chambers

31 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH 03867

*(These minutes were approved on May 23, 2018)*

## Members Present:

Mike Dionne                      Meredith Lineweber              Mark Jennings  
Barbara Soley                      Michael Kirwan

## Members Absent:

Kevin Sullivan              Sheila Lulek

Staff: Seth Creighton, Chief Planner

Mr. Dionne convened the meeting at 6:30pm

### **1. Minutes:** Review Meeting Minutes for March 28, 2018.

The minutes for March 28, 2018 were reviewed and edits suggested. Ms. Lineweber suggested edits. A motion to approve the minutes with changes was made by Ms. Lineweber, seconded by Ms. Soley, all voted in favor.

### **1. Discussion:**

a) Training opportunity for Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP). Mr. Jennings said he would email NHDES to get some further information and see when they would be able to do training for the Commission.

b) 2018 Saving Special Places Conference. Ms. Lineweber reported that two members of the Commission attended. She said she learned that: 1) trail maintenance will reduce natural habitat and habitat function; 2) there have been changes in birds being at the bird feeders; and, 3) they are looking for communication from groups. Mr. Jennings said he learned that: 1) there is money available for drinking water protection; 2) farm viability is essential to keep farms active; 3) Beyond the Easement is an option to pay for agricultural value, this is when money is paid for the option/ability to obtain the farm if the farmer decides to sell; and, 4) there was a discussion on dwindling bat populations. He said the bat population is at 10 percent of what it used to be and asked if the City's Annex building's copula is still open because he said it was once a nesting area for the bats.

### **3. Conservation Overlay District:**

There were no items scheduled.

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

Mr. Creighton informed the Commission that NH DES has requested more information from Tritech Engineering regarding the 17-Lot subdivision on Old Dover Road. The Commission briefly discussed whether or not the project would come back to them for further review but said it would be up to DES and their findings.

Taryn Decken of 162 Old Dover Road, a direct abutter to the project, briefly addressed the Commission with her thoughts on the subdivision.

### **5. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber / Intent to Excavate:**

- a) Notice of Intent to Cut: Tax Map – Lot 240 – 3-1 and 240 – 3-2, White Hall Road (Yacoub)
- b) Notice of Intent to Excavate: Tax Map – Lot 207 – 1, Little Falls Bridge Road (Torr)

- c) Notice of Intent to Cut: Tax Map – Lot 243 – 39A, Tebbets Road/Rochester Hill Road (Homemakers Health Services)
- d) Notice of Intent to Cut: Tax Map – Lot 208-8, 174 Farmington Rd, (174 Farmington Rd LLC)

There were no concerns from any of the Commission members.

## **6. New Business:**

- a) Direction/goals of the Conservation Commission.

The Commission discussed how they could make citizens aware of their Commission and what they do. Several goals were discussed, and included: providing a link to pamphlets and information on the City's Website; greenspace improvements – EPA Greening America's Cities; working with the River Walk Committee; working on the Natural Resources Master Plan and vision statement; doing activities such as clean-up day in the spring; and, attending the Farmers Market at the Rochester Commons.

## **7. Old Business:**

The Commission didn't have any old business to discuss.

## **8. Reports:**

a) Technical Review Group: Mr. Jennings gave an update to the Commission on items that were discussed at TRG. He explained the preliminary proposal by Kincora Development at 400 North Main Street and said they are proposing to fill some wetlands on the property.

Next Mr. Jennings explained Waste Management's proposal: to relocate the Rochester Hauling Facility (parking facility for collection trucks and employee vehicles), the construction 19,000 square foot structure for vehicle maintenance and offices, and a compressed natural gas (CNG) distribution system. He reminded the Commission they had seen and reviewed this project before.

Lastly, Mr. Jennings informed the Commission that the site plan/subdivision known as Ledgeview II would be starting construction again.

b) Planning Board: Mr. Creighton told the Commission the subdivision for Old Dover Road was approved and Phase II of The Ridge has been approved for further excavation.

**9. Other:** UNH student Stephanie Knaplin introduced herself and asked question regarding the Gonic Dam. She stated that she was working on a senior project and that her group chose to research the process/procedures necessary to remove the Gonic Dam.

**10. Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(d):** At 8:13 pm Mr. Kirwan motioned to move into a nonpublic session, Mr. Dionne seconded, the motion passed. Discussion of acquisition of real property and/or recent site walks and LACE sheets.

**11. Adjournment:** Ms. Lineweber motioned to adjourn at 8:46 pm; Mr. Jennings seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Creighton, Chief Planner