

**SOMERSWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 13, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Hamilton
Scott Orzechowski
Angela Ficco
Sarah McGraw
Mercedes O'Donohue
Dale Smith-Kenyon
Jeremy Rhodes

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Shanna B. Saunders, Director of Planning and Community Development.

The meeting was called to order by S Orzechowski at 7:01 p.m.

- 1) Approval of meeting minutes
Conservation Meeting minutes of January 9, 2018

L. Hamilton moves to accept with corrections, S. McGraw seconds, unanimous (D. Smith-Kenyon, Abstaining)

- 2) Public Comment

No Public Comments

- 3) New Business

- A) New Business Not Otherwise Specialized
None

- B) Central Composition of City Easements

S Orzechowski notes that D. Smith-Kenyon has some, he has some, and others may be with other individuals. S. Saunders believes that she has the full list, although many may be in a primitive state as far as maps/layouts holds. S McGraw and S. Saunders will check for any we may have additional responsibilities regarding, and S. Saunders bring files to the next session for group check. S. Orzechowski will maintain the list, and we'll establish a checklist and reporting mechanism. Next session, we'll convene at 6 in order to discuss and plan.

- 4) Old Business

- A) None

- B) Member Subcommittee Items and Reports.

S. McGraw reports progress on land discussions; has met with owner and owners' realtor, S. Saunders, and SELT representative on 2/5/19. Owner had presented some development ideas in 2009 or earlier; significant easements would have been needed to support due to wetland on site. This is an extremely difficult lot to subdivide due to placement of wetlands and road frontage. There's a good chance of drinking water protection grant for this; site fits their criteria well. We'd look for a price for the wetland area. S. Saunders has docs to determine value, and assessor will assist on 2/15. SELT

raised the prospect of tax breaks; property is already in current use, indicating significant tax burden to move into developable use. Grant application would be due 3/22 for Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership.

J Rhodes moves to permit S. Saunders and staff to move forward with any and all necessary action to pursue grant and easement; A. Ficco seconds; unanimous.

- C) Signage for Frank Richardson Trail
No news to report; S. Saunders will follow up.
- D) Rubbish Removal from Malley Farm
On hold for winter.
- E) Vehicular/Hunting Signage at City Parks
On hold for winter
- F) Other Member Items/Subcommittee Reports
S. Saunders: Two relevant hearings in Concord; 100' wetland buffer (including peat bog) and expanding the definition of prime wetlands to remove 50' rule and 'fingers'. Wetland buffer is unlikely to pass, prime wetland is likely to pass.
A. Ficco: United Way is looking into assisting with signage & materials for story walk.
Sustainability: Holding a workshop on recycling in March; looking into citywide potential. Also examining climate change speakers' series and idling project.

5) Treasurer's Report

Balance as of December is \$126,167.64; only noted expenditure was NHACC membership.

Motion: A Ficco moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by D Smith-Kenyon.

1. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary