

**SOMERSWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 14, 2019**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

The meeting was called to order by S Orzechowski at 7:02 p.m.

- 1) Approval of meeting minutes  
Conservation Meeting minutes July 10 2019 (Regular)  
D SA. Ficco moves to accept, L. Hamilton seconds; Unanimously Approved

- 2) Public Comment  
  
No Public Comments

- 3) New Business (noted in order of presentation)

C) City of Somersworth is seeking conceptual review of a conditional use permit to allow earthwork for upgrades to the waste water treatment facility located at 99 Buffumsville Road, in the Agricultural and Industrial (A&I) district, Map 01Lot 01, CUP #06-2019

M. Bobinski, head of Public Works, presents; the plan is to account for future demand and to improve efficiency; we are currently meeting existing demand. The work in total is approximately \$50M and will be undertaken in stages; the submitted plan is for phase 1, accounting for approximately \$13.5M of the total cost. Improvements are focused on doubling aeration capacity, deaerating, and sludge handling, but the work inside buffer is to add a third clarifier. This will impact shoreline, woodland, and waterfront, as this type of facility needs to be near water for outlet. The work will also impact some mature trees near Buffumsville Rd which act as screening for the facility; work is underway to find a mitigation. The work includes placement of significant riprap to control erosion to the impacted waterfront. Recontouring will also help with flood resistance; the placement of the clarifier is currently inside 100-yr floodplain.

Also included in this effort is the use of nonpotable water where appropriate in treatment, which will see a reduction in water costs of approximately 65% over current approach.

The city is currently engaged with DES for required permits, with the expectation that this first phase will go to bid in the November 2019 area (+/- month), allowing for groundbreaking in Spring.

No motion required, as presentation was for conceptual review.

**A) Ian Joseph Campbell LLC is seeking a conditional use permit to allow installation of multiple solar panel arrays and pedestals within the 100' wetland buffer on a property located at 413 High Street, in the Commercial/Industrial (CI) district, Assessor's Map 36, Lot 3A, CUP #04-2019.**

The applicant's attorney presents; the applicant seeks to install 3 (submitted plan included 4) large (38' diameter) sun-following arrays on the site. Land in question is currently open field next to the existing car wash. The proposed arrays will require 2-3 foot per side square concrete pillars 5-10 feet in height to which the panels will be mounted; this type of array is computerized, and will follow the sun to optimize generation, pan to shed snow, and includes backscatter generation capability. There will be some encroachment from at least two arrays and one pillar into the 100' buffer, the extent of which is not fully quantified at this time. There is also a high pressure gas line on the property, the easement for which is currently incorrectly marked on maps of the property and will have to be accounted for prior to plan finalization.

The applicant intends to place stone under the pillars in order to optimize the amount of backscatter generation developed from the site; this will also provide significant erosion control for any runoff from the arrays.

J. Rhodes moves that the Commission recommend approval to the planning board, with the following five conditions:

- 1) Encroachment be limited to the 100' easement.
- 2) Stone be placed under the arrays in order to control erosion from run off
- 3) Any damage done to the site's vegetation as a consequence of construction be remediated prior to completion of work
- 4) The percentage of encroachment into the 100' barrier be calculated on final plans
- 5) Any replanting required on site be done with native seed mixes.

S. McGraw seconds; Unanimously Approved

**B) Steven E Brown is seeking an after-the-fact conditional use permit to allow earthwork activities within the 100' wetland buffer on properties located at Commercial and Willand Drive, in the Commercial Industrial (CI) District, Assessor's Map, 43 Lots 1-G, 1-I, and 1-K, CUP #05-2019**

The applicant's engineer presents; the applicant is also in attendance.

Work has been performed in lot I over approximately the past 12 years; lots G and K were acquired by the applicant in 2018. All work in question was performed in the spring of this year, and was detected in April 2019. Violation letters were sent at that time.

Lot K had been used as an illegal dump site, with miscellaneous household trash placed by unidentified third parties, and contained a poured foundation filled with rubble which the applicant cleared (approximately 100 cubic yards of material). The applicant significantly graded the site, including disturbance of greater than 50% of buffer area in 2 out of 3 lots (I, K). Lot I also previously contained a large stockpile of Loam, and lot K a stockpile of aggregate; these materials were cleared during the work on site.

A site walk was recommended by the commission; all parties (commission, applicant, applicant's engineer) agreed on August 22, 2019 at 5:30 PM to meet and walk the grounds in question.

A Ficco moved that the Commission confirm the site walk as agreed; S Orzechowski seconded. Unanimously Approved.

D) S Orzechowski raised the prospect of using the Nature Conservancy maps in our work, and referred to them. They provide a valuable overlay in addition to our previously completed inventory.

E) No other new business.

4) Old Business

A) Member Items, Sub-Committee Items and Reports

The sustainability committee will hold a screening of 'Paris to Pittsburgh' at the CTC Black Box theatre in September; this will be the opening item of a speaker series addressing climate change.

B) Update Regarding 53 Coles Pond Road Property

Reply has been made to the realtor; city staff are working to determine appraisal requirements for grant applications, with the hope that the lowest bid appraiser will meet the requirements of the grant.

C) Signage for Frank Richardson Trail

Public Works provided an estimate for the requested sign; the cost is lower than anticipated. S. Saunders will provide to the Commission over email.

D) Malley Farm Cottontail Habitat

to City Council Recreation Subcommittee met and provided a strong recommendation proceed with the release. The City Council will take this up at their next session; assuming approval, Fish & Game will be able to release the rabbits this fall.

E) Japanese Knotweed Control

Recommendation to meet with county forester noted; currently, Strafford's forester position is vacant, but the Carroll County forester is covering. She lives locally; a meeting will be researched.

F) Any Other Member/Sub-Committee Reports

None

G) Any Other Old Business That May Come Before the Commission

J. Rhodes proposed moving the Conservation Commission meetings be held earlier in the evening; commission agreed with this proposal.

A. Ficco moved that we hold future meetings at 6 PM; L. Hamilton seconded. Unanimously Approved.

6) Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$146,640.27; we received approximately \$16K in current use tax receipts. S. Saunders will look into source.

D. Smith-Kenyon moved to adjourn; A Ficco seconded. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jeremy Rhodes  
Conservation Commission Secretary