

4/13/2016 Conservation Commission – Minutes

Attendees

Scott Orzechowski
Michelle Poulin
Jeremy Rhodes
Dale Smith-Kenyon

City Staff Present

Robert Belmore, City Manager
Shanna Saunders, Planning Director

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Scott Orzechowski

1) Approval of meeting minutes

Minutes of 3/9 discussed. Motion to approve by Michelle Poulin,, seconded by Dale Smith-Kenyon, carries.

2) Old Business

None Raised

3) New Business

1. Request from the Sustainability Committee for the Commission to review and recommend types and locations for new tree planting

The committee, through Councilor Soldati, requests aid from the Conservation Commission in determining locations and recommendations for plantings to offset city cutting. Dale Smith-Kenyon submitted a list of native species which would be recommended for planting in Somersworth. Jeremy Rhodes suggested using the Natural Resource Inventory to identify recommendations for locations.

Open questions remain on on nature of request, as refers to offsets, intent, and usage.

Dale Smith-Kenyon moves to submit the native species list to Councilor Soldati, and to request clarification of request. Jeremy Rhodes seconds, motion carries

2. Request from Vision 2020 Committee for the Commission to review the Growth and Development Strategy Implementation Matrix from the City's Master Plan

The commission received a copy of the Implementation Matrix, with items pertinent to the Conservation Commission highlighted. Robert Belmore noted the history of these requests; the matrix was developed by the 2020 Subcommittee for feedback.

The items noted by the Vision 2020 Committee are summarized in an attachment, the Vision 2020 Conservation Commission Response.

3. Somersworth Sustainability Commtee Report

Scott Orzechowski raises three items from the committee for attention:

1. Municipal Energy Reduction Long Term Project is underway, and recommendations will be provided.
2. Spirit Up Somersworth – Sustainability will work with the middle school students around an in-school food waste project; this will be presented at cleanup day.
3. UNH has initiated a farm-to-school project; while this is in the early stages, Somersworth is getting in early and this effort is being pursued.

4. Member Items/Reports

None Raised

5. Any other New Business

- 1) Mast Point Dam/Boat Launch Updates presented: Work took place with Timberland; match is required to satisfy grant requirements. Shortfall to meet match is estimated at approximately \$6700. The city has requested an authorization of \$10000 from the commission to allow for contingency.

Mike Bobinski (Director, Public Works) presents; building from past volunteerism , including from Timberland and Liberty Mutual to contribute to matching grant from Natural Resources and Economic Development (Southern NH), funding has been secured to establish a hand-carry boat launch, parking, trail establishment and improvement (stone dust), and signage. Contractor input was required for boat launch.

Additional work to begin in late April/early May to replace a deteriorated culvert, apply stone dust, and complete the parking area. Volunteer labor will be used to offset some of the matching requirement; however, some match will remain, estimated, as per request, at \$6700.

Dale Smith-Kenyon moves to authorize \$10000 for matching requirement and contingency. Jeremy Rhodes seconds, motion carries.

4) Workshop Business

Earlier Natural Resource Inventory workshop session was held.

An audience member, Frank Pollard, spoke, and expressed his appreciation for the Commission's work.

Dale Smith-Kenyon moves to adjourn, Michelle Poulin seconds, carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted, Jeremy Rhodes (Secretary)

Vision 2020 Implementation Matrix Items – Conservation Commission		
Goal Number	Goal	Commission Notes
	Prepare an Open Space Plan that prioritizes parcels for acquisition and preservation, assess the most appropriate uses for city owned parcels, and explores greenway linkage opportunities between these parcels	Work underway in this area through the Natural Resources Inventory
4.1	Recognize the role of water resources for drinking water, recreational opportunities, and providing an aesthetic/cultural quality to the	Work underway in this area through the Natural Resources Inventory
4.2	Continue to work closely with the city of Dover and the NHDES to restore the water quality of Willand Pond and the natural integrity of the adjacent shorelands and wetland resource areas	Notable past issue at site was a significant cyanobacterial bloom; City Manager Belmore noted that this was a natural occurrence, one of many in the state at the time. Planning Director Saunders will request information from NHDES and Dover Conservation Commission around current water quality monitoring. Notable
	Identify and Promote a 'Green Infrastructure' of interconnected natural resources, that includes important shorelands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and flood prone areas. Such an infrastructure can be implemented through both regulatory and non-regulatory means such as acquiring conservation easements and fee acquisition of key properties	Planning Director will research exact timing and nature of change. Salmon Falls Road, Mast Point Dam, and Sunningdale development are noted as successful examples of this work.
4.3	Seek grants and open space protection partners to acquire important open spaces and natural resource areas	Natural Resources Inventory and Mast Point project are noted as examples of good progress in grant acquisition and utilization

