

**SOMERSWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 13, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Angela Ficco
Larry Hamilton
Sarah McGraw - Small
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 6:14 pm (technical difficulties). Please note that this meeting was held remotely due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency; all votes will be recorded by roll call as a consequence.

1) **Approval of meeting minutes**

Conservation Meeting minutes March 11 2020 (Regular)

L. Hamilton moves to accept as submitted; D. Smith-Kenyon seconds.

Vote:

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

S. McGraw-Small: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 7-0

2) **Public Comment**

No Public comments

3) **Continued Applications**

A) Wentworth-Douglass Hospital is seeking a conditional use permit for a 1 mile long nature trail in the wetland buffer on a property located at 23 Works Way, in the Commercial Industrial (C/I) District, Assessor's Map 61 Lot 14B, CUP#08-2019

The applicant continues to work with their engineering group and the NHDES and has requested a continuance.

J. Rhodes moves that the request for continuance to next meeting be granted. S. McGraw-Small seconds.

Vote:

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye
S. McGraw-Small: Aye
M. O'Donohue: Aye
S. Orzechowski: Aye
J. Rhodes: Aye
D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 7-0

4) **New Business**

A. Palmer Gas & Oil, is seeking a Conditional Use Permit for site grading and stormwater management within the woodland buffer on a property located on Gator Rock Road, in the Commercial Industrial (CI) District, Assessor's Map 47 Lot 1I &1J, CUP#02-2020

Bob Stowell (Tritech), Jody Ameden (Palmer), Peter Billipp (Palmer) are present for the applicant. The proposed project is a LPG tank facility. Total disturbance of the woodland buffer as proposed is 24% non-impervious incursion and 8.3% impervious.

Minimal tree cutting is proposed on site; the only mature trees to be disturbed are west of tank area. Species present in this area are various softwood. Some growth has occurred since the last update of the plans, but these are pioneer species and scrub pines.

Facility is LPG only; there is no liquid material at ambient temperatures/pressures. Any leak would vaporize and would not impact soil.

Water treatment would run through forebay to bio - retention area; hooded sumps would be used in Catch Basins.

The proposed site will see daily traffic; drivers will arrive, park their private vehicles and pick up their delivery vehicles; they'd then return at end of day and leave in their private vehicles. The parking area has treatment swales downstream in case of any oil drips from the drivers' vehicles

Site has a failsafe status; minimal risk of any issue. The safety system contains nitrogen and methanol, all in gaseous form. No pollutant risk beyond vehicles parked on site.

Snow storage will be placed to channel melt through treatment swales.

S. McGraw-Small notes the need to include a stamp from Gove (environmental engineer) , stormwater management plan, and tree note on plans.

S. Orzechowski notes the need for plan documentation in relation to section 19.13.8 of the ordinance; city staff will assist the applicant with placing this.

Motion to forward to Planning Board with recommendation and notes as detailed above: J. Rhodes, seconded by S.McGraw-Small

Vote:

A. Ficco: Aye
L. Hamilton: Aye
S. McGraw-Small: Aye
M. O'Donohue: Aye
S. Orzechowski: Aye
J. Rhodes: Aye
D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

B. Sunningdale Beaver Dam

M. O'Donohue and L. Hamilton noted new beaver activity at the Sunningdale easement; this has expanded the pond on site. Appears that the dams have been tampered with by unknown individuals already, and the beavers have, predictably, rebuilt. There is some contention among neighbors regarding the impact of this rise in water levels.

S. Saunders has contacted USDA regarding management of site (they have authority as the trust agency). They'll determine management of the beavers. Will also contact UNH Coop Extension for advice.

S. McGraw-Small recommends posting that the city is contacting USDA to alert nearby landowners to the fact that the city is working on it, and to advise them not to take action on their own. Community does not have a dedicated maintenance space; developer still owns roads and maintenance structures, and he may need to perform maintenance. Any potential threat is to the houses on Firefly Circle.

S. Saunders will send a copy of the easement to the Commission.

Motion to request and recommend that city staff work with the USDA and UNH Coop to seek a resolution of the beaver dam situation: J. Rhodes, seconded by S. McGraw-Small

Vote:

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

S. McGraw-Small: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

C. Any new business that may come before the committee:

A. Ficco notes that there's construction fence in the wetland area at Maplewood; S. Saunders will reach out to school staff to address.

Green Street drains near Stackpole Rd appear to have been worked on; this is a state responsibility. There's been some riprap placed; this is strictly for erosion control and not new work.

5) **Old Business**

A) Member Items, Sub-Committee Items, and Reports

No Subcommittee Reports

B) Update regarding the property at 53 Coles Pond Road

Offer was made as authorized and verbally accepted; city met with property owner and agent regarding the property; working through purchase and sales agreement. Looking for a draft of the document. S. Saunders will check in to move forward.

C) Any Other Member/Sub-Committee Reports

None

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

Site walks continue to be performed under social distancing rules; S. McGraw-Small intends to visit Buffumsville property to check this week. Please alert S. McGraw-Small and S. Saunders prior to undertaking any walks so they can alert property owners.

Contact S. Saunders to have property owner or DPW deal with large trash found on site walks.

Malley Farm Cottontail release is in the works with Fish and Game; they're in the process of getting answers for city staff. S. Saunders will follow up to get answers to these administrative items.

Lilac car wash on 108 has approval from PB for solar panels and is going in once building permit is in place.

Household waste is 5/16 at turnkey landfill, Isinglass Way, Rochester. Contact Public Works for questions.

6) **Treasurer's Report**

\$146,779.86 on hand.

A. Ficco moved to adjourn; J. Rhodes seconded.

Vote:

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

S. McGraw-Small: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary