

Conservation Commission
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
July 08, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeremy Degler (joined in progress)
Angela Ficco
Larry Hamilton
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 6:06 pm.

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically. The public has access to watch this meeting through the Local Government Cable Access Ch. 22 (Comcast), and streamed live through the City's website at www.somersworth.com.

The public can access the meeting and listen live by telephoning any of the following numbers and then adding webinar I.D.# 851 0068 0187

1 (312) 626-6799, 1 (646) 558-8656, 1 (301) 715-8592, 1 (346) 248-7799, 1 (669) 900-9128,
or 1 (253) 215-8782

Although this is a public meeting, the public is encouraged NOT to attend and instead to leave comments or concerns at the following phone number # 1-603-841-2936, by emailing conservation@somersworth.com or by sending or dropping off at the drive-thru written comment to: Conservation Commission,
1 Government Way, Somersworth NH 03878.

Comments must be received no later than 4pm the day of the meeting.

- 1) Approval of meeting minutes.
Two corrections – Under Item A, Old Business – note that Shanna was requested to check for wetland incursion at wellhead parcel.
Item B, Old Business – Note that this is a subdivision, creating a new lot at the site.

Motion to approve as corrected by A. Ficco, seconded by L. Hamilton.

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

Motion Carries 6-0

- 2) **Public Comment**

Proud past, bright future

No Public comments

3) CONTINUED APPLICATIONS

(J. Degler joined at this point)

- A. Wentworth Douglass Hospital, is seeking 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 (CI) District, Assessor's Map 61 Lot 14B, CUP#08-2019

Applicant has met with their engineer and has revised the plan; they will submit the plan to DES prior to meeting with us, as this tends to speed the process. We anticipate meeting with the applicant next month.

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to table to next month, presuming that DES returns response by this point, A. Ficco seconds

Vote:

J. Degler: Aye

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 7-0

4) NEW BUSINESS

- A. Francis J. & Dione N. Nichols are seeking a Conditional Use Permit to construct a 384 SF addition and deck within the Riparian & Wetland Buffer on a property located at 111 Rocky Hill Road, in the Residential Single Family (R-1) District, Assessor's Map 51 Lot 23, CUP#03-2020

R. Stowell, Applicant's engineer presents. The structure is existing (built in 1981), current owners have owned the home since 2002, and this proposal includes construction inside the 50' vegetative buffer. The proposed addition falls partially within the 75' setback and partially within the 100' woodland buffer. The applicant intends to place a silt soxx to control any runoff towards the wetland.

A.Ficco moves to recommend approval of the CUP to the Planning Board as submitted.,
D. Smith-Kenyon seconds

Vote:

J. Degler: Aye

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 7-0

B. Election of Treasurer

With the resignation of S. McGraw-Small due to relocation, L. Hamilton has agreed to take the position.

J. Rhodes moves to elect L. Hamilton as Treasurer of the Conservation Commission; D. Smith-Kenyon seconds

Vote:

J. Degler: Aye

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Abstain

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 6-0-1

C. Any new business that may come before the Commission.

None

5) **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Tracy Degnan of Rockingham County Conservation District regarding the Sunningdale NRCS Open Space

Tracy explained some of the proposal for maintenance of the open space, but had technical issues and was not able to share the map. S. Saunders will contact Tracy regarding setting a meeting to discuss the plans; we'll look to have her back to the regular conservation meeting in August. Tracy also alerted us to offsite encroachments from ATV use at the site.

B. New England cottontail program update

Heidi from Fish & Game responded; changes proposed by Bob Belmore are acceptable; 2020 releases are halted due to Coronavirus, but we are on the list for a 2021 release. No talk of a Sunningdale introduction at this time. We will contact Tracy regarding this development in regard to the Sunningdale parcel; S Orzechowski will handle this contact.

C. Frank Richardson trail sign at Mast Point Dam

S. Saunders spoke with DPW; they will be installed this week or next.

D. Wetland encroachment at former well parcel

DPW (Jerry Vachon) and A. Ficco met on June 29 near Copperhead Rd. to check site; they did not check the wetland side but did locate the house that has been moving fill. Fill issues from the cemetery seems to be at the same property; major concern here is that the fill from the cemetery has significant quantities of Japanese Knotweed, which should not be introduced to a wetland. They'll provide a notice of the issue; if not corrected, this will go to Code Enforcement.

E. MEMBER ITEMS, SUB-COMMITTEE ITEMS, AND REPORTS

City received a sizeable farm to school grant; this will help with a number of projects around the city.

F. Update regarding the property at 53 Coles Pond Road

Need to clear septic suitability for remaining property; once that's complete, we can submit the subdivision plan to the Planning Board. Approval expected in August/September. Once this is complete, an environmental survey is required, and then we'll close and take ownership.

G. Any other old business that may come before the Commission

Millenium Park lights will be stabilized and the fallen one replaced. Pavilion will be rebuilt, with some delays due to lumber availability. May be open in the fall. Jules Bisson park is being updated as well with a gazebo-type structure, ADA parking, and ADA playground structures being installed.

J. Rhodes moves to adjourn, A. Ficco seconds

Vote:

J. Degler: Aye

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary