

Conservation Commission
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 10, 2021

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeremy Degler

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Mears

The meeting was called to order by S Orzechowski at 6:05 pm. 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.

Regular Meeting of 1/13

Clarifications/Corrections: Angela Ficco was, in fact, present from the start of the meeting. On page 3, other new business, section 3, line 3 – add ‘would’, note that signs were removed likely by vandalism. On Continued Applications, section 3 – paragraph starting D. Crossley – replace ‘I concur’ with ‘J. Rhodes concurs’

Motion to approve A. Ficco, seconded by M. O'Donohue.

Vote:

S. Eckstein: Aye

A. Ficco: Aye

L. Hamilton: Aye

M. O'Donohue: Aye

S. Orzechowski: Aye

J. Rhodes: Aye

D. Smith-Kenyon: Aye

Motion Carries 7-0-0

2) Public Comment

Public Comment received from Douglas Bryar re: Sunningdale. See attached below.

3) CONTINUED APPLICATIONS

None.

4) NEW BUSINESS

A. Any Other New Business

New wetlands ordinance is going to city council 2/16/2021 for first reading. Two new CUPs are coming to the board next month. Dana Crossley identified a section regarding existing nonconforming lots that was added to the new ordinance; this was omitted from the new ordinance inadvertently.

Idlehurst received a grant to improve nature-based education at the school. This may involve commission work as it adds outdoor classroom spots.

UNH application regarding training has been received; S. Eckstein will be applying. City budget is available to attend.

5) **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Wetland encroachment at former well parcel

City Staff need to meet with DES to advance.

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

a. Low-Flow Showerheads

S. Orzechowski is writing up distribution plan.

b. Hats

Available at city hall

c. Update regarding the property at 53 Coles Pond Road

Scientist found for baseline; looking to wait until snow melt, but deadline for grant is approaching (4/30/21); looking to expedite and contact with DES has been made.

d. Habitat restoration at Sunningdale easement

Public comment received (see attached), as well as messages from Tracy Degnan; work expected to begin today at site and continue for 2.5 weeks. Temporary trail closures to allow access. Areas involved match closely the one in the public comment. Updated map is requested from DES.

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

Brown Restoration site; due to drought, request made to follow up in April regarding planting. Remainder of work has been completed.

Works 'Nature Trail': will be added to old business list.

Master Plan is being worked on.

6) **Treasurer's Report**

	City of Somersworth, NH	
	Conservation Commission, Fund Balance	
	January 31, 2021	
December 31, 2020	Balance Forward	\$ 138,891.88
	Receipts:	
	Interest Received	2.55
	Disbursements:	
January 20, 2021	NORWAY PLAINS ASSOCIATES, INC.	(1,520.50)
January 31, 2021	Ending Balance	\$ 137,373.93

L. Hamilton moves to adjourn, J. Rhodes seconds

Vote:

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

Motion Carries 7-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary

Proud past, bright future

From: Douglas Bryar <bryardb@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2020 2:07 PM
To: scott.orzechowski@comcast.net; brooke.stubbs@usda.gov;
tracy@rockinghamccd.org
Subject: Proposal : Sunningdale Dr, Cottontail Project

As I listened to the Dec 9th Conservation Commission meeting, I was pleasantly surprised to hear that the NRCS, NH Fish and Game and other representatives were willing to hear and consider our concerns as home owners. As important as this project is to the NRCS and other agencies, it is also of utmost importance to the home owners, many of whom bought into this development due to the views and the wildlife. I would like to make a proposal that I believe may be acceptable to all concerned.

I have taken several walks in the hillside and have seen where the trees and bushes have been flagged. If I understand correctly, the area where the trees are tagged in blue, will be trimmed but some hardwoods will be left. The yellow ribbons indicate the existing NEC habitat. The areas tagged in blue seem to be over the crest of the hill, as seen from Sunningdale Dr. There were no signs of blue tags on any trees in the fairways.

I have taken GPS coordinates in relation to the crest of the hills and my proposal is this, please see attached map (provided by the USDA). A black line drawn between the two GPS coordinates (43.23340, -70.87093 and 43.23136, -70.86998) appears to bisect the area of the first blue tagged trees. What I propose is to leave the trees, conifers and hardwoods, to the east of this line, and have NRCS cut as needed to the area to the west and south of the existing area.

The green-hatched existing rabbit habitat encompasses 11 acres with an additional 8 acres that are under review (yellow-hatched). The area to the west of the proposed line, and south to the conservation boundary, could result in as much as 10 - 15 additional acres. Someone at the last meeting stated that the required acreage for a habitat is around 20 acres. With the existing habitat and cutting to the west of this line, I feel that you should easily be able to meet that requirement.

I hope you will consider this request. I understand that this just a proposal and as such is subject to adjustment and revision. I believe that the proposal would meet the needs of both the NRCS and the home owners. I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or clarifications needed.

Respectively,

Doug Bryar

81 Sunningdale Dr

Somersworth NH