

SOMERSWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 10, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Bryar, Sarah Childs, Kevin Dodds, Angela Ficco, Scott Orzechowski, Jeremy Rhodes, Dale Smith-Kenyon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeremy Degler

STAFF PRESENT: Dana Crossley

The meeting was called to order by S. Orzechowski at 6:01 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Corrections:

- Paragraph 2, sentence 2 – replace ‘is licensed by the state to work with wildlife’ to ‘holds a NH trapping license.’

D. Smith-Kenyon moves to accept as amended; D. Bryar seconds. Motion carries 6-0-1 (S. Childs abstained)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (five minutes per person and subject to closure in interest of time)

None

3. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUESTS

- A. Packy’s Investment LLC is seeking a conditional use permit for 12,235 SF impact to the Riparian and Wetland Buffer as part of a commercial development on a property located at 363 Route 108, in the Commercial Industrial (CI) District, Assessor’s Map 48 Lot 22B, CUP#14-2022.**

The Commission voted to continue to the June meeting at applicant request.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Any new correspondence-None

B. Any new business to come before the Commission

- This is Angela Ficco’s last meeting as a member of the Conservation Commission; over her time on the commission, she’s led many efforts, including the release of endangered New England Cottontails and the Mast Point Dam trails. Angela will remain involved with subcommittees and in this work in the community; the commission thanks her for her years of service.
- S. Childs notes that her ability to host the required commission material for easements is reaching its limits due to space constraints and asks if there’s an alternative available from the City. D. Crossley will check with Director Mears for an alternative.
- Crossley shares that the Strafford Regional Planning Commission is willing to leverage GIS data to produce a tool for tracking information on street trees in order to facilitate maintenance and replacement of trees. Interest is expressed in this; she’ll request that they proceed.
- Training is available from the NH Lakes Congress on 6/2; reach out to development staff for registration.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Easement monitoring

No Update at this time; S. Childs and D. Breyer will check the Frasier site (last site to be surveyed)

B. iNaturalist and Community Wildlife Habitat items for city newsletter

Items are with S. Childs; will be included in June or July edition. S. Orzechowski is looking to expand adoption using UNH Cooperative extension as a partner, potentially through a program held at the library. The possibility of using a booth at a City festival is also discussed.

C. Any Correspondence regarding old business

S. Orzechowski reached out to J. Wituszynski and provided history and data on the Lily Pond property.

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

i. Wildlife Management plan for Lily Pond parcel (S. Orzechowski)

No update at this time

ii. Invasives plan sub-committee report (D. Smith-Kenyon)

A list of City-owned parcels is in hand; control plans are being developed through a combination of physical and chemical means. Invasives are known throughout the City, including at Malley Farm, Eversource right of ways, and Idlehurst school. A triage system to evaluate the best use of resources is discussed.

iii. Malley Farm trail subcommittee report (K. Dodds)

Site walk was held; rules for subcommittee membership and roles are being investigated. K. Dodds has made contact with ConservationWorks, a consultancy company that assists with the design and implementation of trail projects. They would send 2 staff members to us and provide an informal assessment for \$978.25; this fee would not include a formal report; this could be added to the request. Their advice would include the status of the Malley Farm land, which is currently not in formal conservation status. We note that DPW, Parks and Recreation, and the Director Mears be engaged for this project as well.

J. Rhodes moves that the commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$1500 for K. Dodds to engage ConservationWorks for services related to the Malley Farm Trails project. A. Ficco seconds; Motion carries 7-0-0

The minutes of the site walk are discussed; A. Ficco moves to accept the minutes, K. Dodds seconds. Motion carries 4-0-3 (J. Rhodes, D. Smith-Kenyon, S. Childs)

E. Any other old business that may come before the Commission. - None

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report this month.

Ficco moves to adjourn; D. Smith-Kenyon seconds. Motion carries 7-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary