

**SOMERSWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
September 12, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Hamilton
Scott Orzechowski
Angela Ficco
Sarah McGraw
Jeremy Rhodes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shane Conlin
Dale Smith-Kenyon

STAFF PRESENT: Shanna B. Saunders, Director of Planning and Community Development.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1) Approval of meeting minutes

Conservation Meeting minutes of August 8 2018

Minutes were not distributed, but were read out in session by S. Orzechowski; changes proposed:

- Pg 1, 2B; replace 'top' with too
- Section 2D, retitle old to new
- Section 3A, Winnie the Pooh trail is in Barrington, not Rollinsford.

A. Ficco moves to accept, L. Hamilton seconds, unanimous

Joint Meeting, Conservation Commission and Tree City USA committee of August 8 2018

Minutes were not distributed, but were read out in session by S. Orzechowski; changes proposed:

- Add AJ's last name (Dupere)

A. Ficco moves to accept, L. Hamilton seconds, unanimous Dale moves to accept with indicated changes.

2) Old Business

A) Commission Handbook update.

Tabled, as D. Smith-Kenyon not present tonight.

B) Landowner Conservation Outreach Letter

Current version has suggested changes from S. Saunders; S. McGraw will revise. This will then go to City Manager for comment. S. Saunders, S. McGraw, and S. Orzechowski will meet with Manager the week of 9/17 to discuss.

C) Information on the Wildlife Heritage Fund regarding aquatic insect education.

Tabled; input from S. Conlin required.

- D) Any other old business that may come before the Commission.
S. McGraw notes no response re: Pumpkin Festival table; she will continue to follow up to obtain table. Festival set for Saturday October 13.

3) New Business

- A) Review of City of Somersworth's DES Wetlands Permit Application for an emergency application for an emergency wetlands crossing on Centre Road in the Industrial (I) District Assessor's Map 04, Lots 01 & 02.
Plan on discussing at next session DPW not ready.

B) Story Trail at Malley Farm

A Ficco has contacted United Way regarding temporary/portable materials for a pilot/trial run. Wood Shop at CTC/SHS would be able to assist with construction of permanent signs if materials were provided. A Ficco will meet with Matt Jar to discuss temporary material; up to 2 commission members will be able to attend without it being a formal meeting.

Site lends itself to a short (.5-.6 mile) loop trail. ADA compliance requirements would depend on funding sources; government sources will typically require compliance.

Long-Term installation would be a high vandalism risk; an event-based installation would be recommended. The fact that endangered rabbits have been seen at the site would provide good spur for an event.

Temporary version is very low cost (<\$300). This could be mitigated by donations, including from Velcro. Costs would then be for stakes, books to cut for trail signs, and laminating. Shanna will request that Economic Development contact Velcro regarding donation.

Advertising would be appropriate at local daycares and Head Start.

C) Trail Use at Malley Farm

Trails run about 5 miles including Rollinsford connected trails. ATV use, as well as foot races. Rollinsford trails are covered by SELT. Some trails lead to old party sites, and some riverfront trails require stabilization.

Need information on ATV usage. Tri-City Trailblazers seem to use trails today. They've previously stated a desire to connect trails from Garrison Hill in Dover to Rochester. Shanna will check for previous minutes of meetings with city.

S McGraw suggests contacting Rollinsford Conservation Commission to discuss their handling of trails.

- D) Somersworth Sustainability Committee Report
No Report

E) Member Items and Reports

S Orzechowski notes that NHACC conference is set for November 3, and that the City will pay for members to attend.

F) Treasurer's Report

S Saunders provided minutes indicating that most recent acquisition was app. \$100K in 2008 for Salmon Falls parcel. These also indicate a prior account listed as the 'ReLeaf' account this (and all other accounts) were merged at City request.

Commission discussed possibility of maintaining a separate account for operating costs (such as story walks, signs, and similar).

- G) Any Other New Business before the Commission
None

4) Workshop Business

- A) Any workshop business that may come before the Commission.
S McGraw will contact AJ Dupere and M Bobinsky regarding a 2nd tree planting.

Motion: L Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by A Ficco.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeremy Rhodes
Conservation Commission Secretary