

Stratham Conservation Commission Public Meeting

22nd of March, 2023

I. Call to Order

Bill Kenny called to order the regular meeting of the Town of Stratham Conservation Commission at 7pm on the 22nd of March, 2023 at Stratham Town Hall.

II. Roll Call

The following members were present: Bill Kenny (Chair), Kyle Saltonstall (Vice-Chair, acting Secretary), Bill McCarthy, Robert Keating, Brad Jones, and Dan McAulliff. Also present were Mark Connors (Town Planner), Seth Hickey (Stratham Parks and Recreation Director), Mr. Al Pace, and representatives of Lindt Chocolate.

III. Previous Minutes

No minutes were available from previous meeting to approve.

IV. Mail

No mail was received.

V. Open Issues

1. Pace Property

The matter of Mr. Pace's property was posted publicly for this meeting. Mr. Saltonstall motioned to approve the purchase of the property for \$27,200, double the assessed value of \$13,600. Mr. Keating approved the motion and all members voted in approval.

2. Roadside cleanup

The roadside cleanup is scheduled for May 13th. Mr. McCarthy will pick up donuts. Mr. Kenny spoke with a representative from a local Boy Scouts troop who said that scouts would attend. Mr. McAulliff will secure a sign for the event. Mr. Jones will bring vests and gloves. Mr. Kenny will bring the sandwiches from Market Basket and chocolate from Lindt.

3. New Chair

Mr. McCarthy believes that the Chair has historically been overburdened with the lion's share of the tasks which the Commission is responsible for. He believes that this lack of proper delegation contributes to burnout and high turnover for the Chair position. Mr. McCarthy suggested that the Commission spend time defining the common tasks and delegating those to members of the Commission. The next meeting should spend time focusing on the roles and responsibilities that individual members can take on in the future.

4. TMAC Update

The Parks and Recreation Department has been renovating trails within the Stratham Hill Park trail system with the intention of preventing natural erosion and remedying wear and tear associated with regular use. So far, maintenance and improvements have been focused on the Barker Connector Trail, the USA

Stratham Conservation Commission Public Meeting

22nd of March, 2023

Today Trail, the Power Line trails, and the Barker Trail. Relocation of a kiosk near the Jack Rabbit Lane parking lot is designed to funnel pedestrian traffic through a path that has a pedestrian eco-counter and to increase the visibility and subsequent use of said kiosk.

VI. New Business

5. Lindt Chocolate Property Alteration

Doug Brodeur of H.L. Turner Group, Inc. (representing Lindt Chocolate) presented a proposed change to a driveway at the Lindt Chocolate property. In order to facilitate the expansion of production, Lindt needs to build a new dock. This would require altering and widening an existing paved driveway area. Some existing pavement would be removed and restored to a more natural state planted with self-seeding wildflowers. After discussion, there were no objections to the proposed project from any of the members in attendance.

6. Legislative Change

In light of a proposed changes to the status quo of professional licensing requirements in the State, the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHAOCC) recommends maintaining the requirement for Certified Environmental Wetland Scientists. NHAOCC would like the Commission to add our support to their efforts by writing a letter to their finance committee explicitly stating our support. Mr. McAulliff motioned to write a letter to their finance committee expressly supporting their efforts and to request that the Stratham Board of Select make efforts to oppose the dissolution of State certification requirements for Foresters, Certified Wetland Scientists, Landscape Architects, and Soil Scientists. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion and all members voted in approval.

VII. Non-Public Meeting

1. Mr. McCarthy motioned to enter a non-public meeting at 8:15pm The motion was seconded by Mr. Kenny and all members voted in favor.
2. Mr. Saltonstall motioned to exit the non-public meeting and seal the minutes at 9:00pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keating and all members voted in favor.

VIII. Adjournment

1. Mr. Kenny motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm. Mr. Keating seconded the motion and all other members voted in favor.

Minutes submitted by: K Kyle Saltonstall

Minutes approved by: