

Stratham Conservation Commission  
Public Meeting Minutes  
12/11/19

Present: Bill McCarthy, Brad Jones, Dan McAuliffe, Tim Copeland, Pat Elwell, Allison Knab

Public Session

Called to order 7:04

Mailbox

The CC was copied on an application for a fixed pier and float for recreational use at a property on 34 Raeder Dr.

Minutes

Tim moved approval of 11/13/19 and 10/9/19 public and non-public minutes, with the correction of adding Dan McAuliffe to the list of those attending the meeting. Allison seconded approval, Motion passed.

New Business

Seth Hickey, Park and Rec director, attended to discuss engaging a forester to develop a forest management plan for the trails at Stratham Hill Park and the surrounding trail networks. He has two foresters he has contacted for proposals, Lou Shelly and John Marden, and wants them to do baseline work and create some GIS maps to capture current conditions and develop a plan for the future. Seth would also like to be able to create new trails on other conservation properties. But before expanding a trail network, he would like to have standards developed. Eventually standards could be incorporated into PB regs so future developments could include such standards. Cost of work is expected to be approx. \$5000, to be shared by CC, Park & Rec, and Park Assoc. Seth is looking at possible sources of grant money that could be applied to this work as well.

Luke Hurley from Gove Environmental Services presented a wetland application for a foundation drain at 8 Oxbow Road (off River Rd). The drain is within the 100' tidal buffer so the Wetlands Bureau had jurisdiction and a dredge and fill application is required. A copy was received by the CC. Two 4" pvc lines will come from house and will become one 6" pipe, and will go approximately 70'. Installation will be a temporary impact because the drain will be covered, but pipes are sloped, due to topography, towards the Squamscott River. No structure allowed within the 50' tidal buffer, however this is not considered a structure. Nothing is required from the CC, the information was being provided for information purposes and Luke responded to CC questions.

Nate Merrill shared concern that the Energy Commission was considering whether zoning and planning variances allow for the opportunities to use open space for renewable energy development. It is questionable that the "non-developable" requirement would still apply to housing developments. The CC will be looking to comment on any such proposed variances.

Tavis notified the CC that an Ad-Hoc committee to investigate and recommend land use changes/zoning changes for the Route 33 Legacy Highway (NH 33 from the Town Center District to the Greenland Town line). They are looking for members of other town committees to participate.

The CC discussed whether to update the Conservation priorities for weighting potential properties being looked at to determine the best way to utilize any possible funding. Pat will retype existing checklist to use as a working document. Bill will send Pat draft information to work with.

Allison moved, Tim seconded, cancelling the next CC meeting which falls on December 25. Motion Passed.

#### Old business

Lindt responded to the CC letter of concern to DES regarding their proposed parking project. They stated that up to 40% of their employees already carpool and they feel constructing a parking garage would take less time and area and they plan to request a height variance. The project is still under review by DES. The CC response regarding the Lindt plan was also provided by Bill to the PB.

Tim moved, Allison seconded, close of meeting. Motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan 8th at 7 pm at the Stratham Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Elwell