

**Stratham Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Public Session  
May 22, 2019**

**Conservation Commission Members Present:** Bill McCarthy, Bob Keating, Ana Egana, Brad Jones; Pat Elwell; Tim Copeland; Dan McAuliffe

Meeting Called to order @ 7:16 PM

Meeting with Stratham Hill Park Association

*Beavers in SHP:*

Updated park association on details CC learned about Beaver removal, which is not currently an option. Recommendation, remove damaged trees, and wrap trees that should be saved. Park association recommended Patrick Tate as a resource, who is a Biologist with NH Fish and Game.

*Removal of antique frame from SHP:*

Letter inquiring about removal of antique frame from park. Person wants to build portable forge to use for educational purposes. David Moore offered to facilitate communication across commissions on topic and recommended that letter is forward to BOS and that Heritage commission is contacted. Discussed 3 possible options 1) person could have it, but would like to see restored forge at town events such as Fair; 2) person could have it, and town would have first right of refusal to purchase should person decide to sell it; and 3) leave it untouched in current location.

Motion that Bill McCarthy writes a recommendation with comments from CC, Pat Elwell moved, Tim Copeland second: passed unanimously.

*Update to Stratham Hill Park Association on visit from Tim Horphat:*

Provided summary of visit and topics discussed, that included use of organic fertilizer in park and use of garlic-based compound for Mosquito control.

Seth Hickey stated that fertilizer application in Ball Parks performed by Hillside irrigation. Decided to use non-organic options due to mixed results with organic approaches previously used in fields. Seth suggested that one single department should be responsible for fertilizer application and that best practices should be explored.

Mosquito control, DES is the auditor for what pesticides are used due to water issues.

Seth will gather information on what is specifically being applied, so that CC can assess the potential impact of water run off to town water resources and Great Bay.

*CC minutes:*

Apr 24 Public and Non-Public

Tim Copeland moved to approve with suggested changes to correct typo for “trees” and “Dunkin Donuts” and to add “Forest Barker” as attendee on site walk; Pat Elwell second – motion passed unanimously

May 8 Public

Tim Copeland moved to approve with suggested changes to correct typo for “Odorless”; Pat Elwell second – motion passed unanimously

*Town Cleanup Day:*

Bill McCarthy congratulated everyone on successful cleanup day. 18 groups of people, approximately 50 people in total. People commented on the presence of poison ivy.

Bill McCarthy brought receipts for town cleanup totaling \$277.33

Pat Elwell moved to pay for expenses from budget; Tim Copeland second – motion passed unanimously

*Mailbox:*

Card from Rockingham Planning Commission announcing annual meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Received copy of minimum impact expedited dredge and fill wetland application for 58-60 Portsmouth Ave. from NHDES.

*Municipal update:*

Barker easements moving forward, BOS preparing for closing. CC is required to have a vote in a public meeting which will take place Wed, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Discussion regarding disbursement of funds based on warrant article as well as legal expenses associated with closure of easements. David Moore to bring proposal for cost sharing to the 29-May meeting. Final discussions with Edie Barker about legal protections since activities are organized by town on her property. In NH there is immunity for people who offer public use of their land.

8:04 PM

Pat Elwell moved to adjourn meeting, Tim Copeland second – motion passed unanimously; Meeting adjourned

**Next regular meeting scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Municipal Center.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Ana Egana

Serving as Secretary