

Conservation Commission Public Minutes

6/28/17

Present: Bob Keating, Joe Lovejoy, Bill McCarthy, Pat Elwell

Town Administrator: Paul Deschaine

7:07 pm. meeting called to order

Public Outreach for Bikeable/Walkable Stratham

Andrea Benson met with the Planning Board at their meeting last Wed. to discuss walk ability/bike ability of town. They talked about different goals and perspectives and ideas. The first focus was to discuss how to add sidewalks in town. As Paul explained there is an astronomical cost to building and maintaining sidewalks and several of the main roads were state roads on which the Town could not build sidewalks. The second thought was to look at connectivity to currently existing trails in the various conserved properties and see how they might be able to link them to existing roads, and especially cul de sacs.

The CC had met with Melissa Gahr at the last meeting and explained that the information about the open space and public access exists on the Natural Resources Inventory which is available on the Town of Stratham website. Bill M suggested that the group Andrea is working with put together a list of the properties that they would like to see linked together with roads. Once that is developed, they could come back to the Commission to review locations and then as a group we could work easement holders and property owners to see how this might work.

Compost Bins/Rain Barrels

Bill K sent an email stating that he received a replacement Rain Barrel for SMS and that he has two remaining compost bins.

New Member Application

Ana Egana, Bill McCarthy's wife, has a background in biology from Tufts and is very passionate about conservation issues. She recently became a US Citizen and has put in an application to the Town to become a member of the Conservation Commission. Pat moved, Bob seconded, motion to send a letter to the Selectmen encouraging them to vote in favor of her application given her background and ability think and speak independently from Bill. Motion passed, with Bill abstaining. Pat will write a letter to the Selectmen.

Mailbox

All CC members received a letter from the state Dept of Health and Human services noting that they will be beginning a program to study arsenic and uranium in Stratham groundwater. Postcards will be mailed to selected residents in June to ask if they would be interested in participating in a study.

The CC received a copy of a letter to the NH DES Wetlands Bureau from Gove Environmental stating that actions taken on 14 Pinewood Drive do not appear to have any inappropriate wetlands impact on the property.

14 & 16 Wiggin Way

Paul noted that the Jones and Beach plans that were provided to the CC at the last meeting were severely deficient in that there was no indication on the map of where the wells were located, the address was not included. Bill noted that this was an expedited request and asked if it would have been better for the plan to have gone before the PB first and was complete.

Minutes

Minutes of 6/14/17 meeting were reviewed. Bob move to accept as written, Bill M. Seconded. Motion passed.

Municipal Updates

The "New England's Trail Maintenance for Volunteers Training Guide" handbook for trail maintenance and construction was developed by The Stewardship Network. Paul has emailed the link for this to all CC members. This document might be a good one to include in the CC Master Plan update and/or future NRI version. It appears to be more appropriate for smaller trail systems such as those in Stratham.

Fred Emanuel Mill Brook Office Park has come for a preliminary review before the Planning Board board of a site plan discussion about adding a new building to the site on Portsmouth Ave.

Winnicut River watershed meeting was held last week. Paul attended and at the end of the document that had been prepared and had noted that with the extensive documentation and the action item list at the back of the document, it would be enough to easily translate to a grant application for federal funds.

The PB is reviewing an application regarding a property Adjacent to the transfer station

The Daley 7-lot subdivision off Willowbrook Ave. was approved.

The Riece property subdivision of Emery Lane was approved.

The PB will be having a discussion at one of their upcoming meetings regarding the extensive addition of more and more cul de sacs that take a great deal of extra time for the highway dept. to maintain, especially during storms. Tentatively the meeting is planned for July 19.

The Energy Commission will be holding an informational session regarding the Energy 360 program. The collaborative will be presenting on 7/18 about how to save energy on home heating and cooling and the potential for solar energy.

Bob moved to adjourn at 8:21, Joe seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Elwell