

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
December 1, 2015**

Chairman Steve Roy calls the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Steve Roy, Vice Chairman Steven Hampl, James Ryan, Wini Young, Thomas Chase, Board Administrator Linda Smith, and Board Secretary Lisa Fellows-Weaver. Shelley Frost arrives at 7:30 p.m.

Absent: Alternate Loren O'Neil, and Alternate Michael Matson.

MINUTES

November 3, 2015

Mr. Roy makes a motion, second by Mr. Hampl, to approve the November 3, 2015, minutes, as written. Motion passes; 6/0.

Mr. Roy welcomes Grace Levergood to the meeting and states that Ms. Levergood is interested in becoming a member of the commission. Mr. Roy provides an overview of the commission's duties and charges. He explains the projects that the commission has been involved with in recent years. Members introduce themselves and provide a brief synopsis of their backgrounds noting their years of service on the commission. Ms. Levergood introduces herself and provides an overview of her background.

Site Walk

Mr. Hampl provides an overview of the site walk held on Map 238; Lot 11. He states that he, Mr. Chase, and Ms. Young walked the property. He explains the topography of the area and states that the area is beautiful; however, it is a depleted area as it was a gravel pit. He notes that Ms. Frost arrived later and he then took her around the area. He states that he feels that it was a successful site walk. The addition of the beaver pond makes the property much nicer than only having a stream.

General discussion ensues relative to the fact that this area has the potential to become an aquatic mitigation project. Mr. Hampl states that there are visual signs of stream bank disturbances. Mr. Hampl notes that the water is dirty due to the beavers and he notes that the stream flows to Northwood Lake. He adds that this area is within the vicinity of the project completed by Trout Unlimited for habitat development. He feels that this would be a good area to extend a similar project. Mr. Chase adds that the area is a prime area for black racers.

Mr. Roy speaks to the area and if the area would be considered for Aquatic Resource Mitigation funds (ARM). He explains the program's limiting factors and adds that there is the potential for other restoration projects and additional funds.

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Mr. Roy briefly explains the ARM application process and states that the deadline is coming up in April. He offers to compile the necessary information in order to be ranked on the project.

Ms. Frost arrives at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Roy states that the NALMC report will be issued at the end of the month and the Yeaton parcel has been included in the report.

With no further discussion, the commission agrees to pursue the ARM project and Mr. Roy offers to draft the application and present a write up along with maps of the area.

Additional discussion is held regarding other properties in the area. **Mr. Roy makes a motion, second by Mr. Ryan, to authorize Ms. Smith to contact legal counsel regarding potential projects on neighboring parcels. Motion passes unanimously; 6/0.**

Big Tree ~ Tom Chase

Mr. Chase states that he spoke with Kevin Martin regarding hosting a presentation on the Big Tree. He suggests the presentation be held at the end of February or the beginning of March. He explains that the presentation would be about an hour with a cost of \$100. The town will need to provide audio and visual equipment. The commission agrees to pursue the Big Tree presentation in March of 2016. Mr. Chase will arrange the presentation with Mr. Martin.

Town Forester Charlie Moreno

Ms. Smith states that the board authorized Mr. Moreno to blaze the Low property and a purchase order has been completed for up to \$2,000. She explains that she has attempted to contact Mr. Moreno many times, to no avail. She states that she needs to have a contract immediately or the funds will go back to the general fund. In addition, she states that Mr. Moreno needs to confirm that the project will be done within the first 90 days of the year. Mr. Roy states that he will contact Mr. Moreno.

Potential Site Plan ~ Map 217; Lot 35

Ms. Smith makes the commission aware of an application coming before the planning board in December for a potential 82 unit self-storage building at First Moving & Storage, First NH Turnpike. She provides a preliminary plan and explains the location and proposed project noting that there is a lack of frontage and a portion of the access is potentially through a wetland buffer. A discussion is held regarding the current gravel passageway along the back of the area. Mr. Roy offers to attend the planning board meeting and may suggest that the commission consider doing a site walk.

Officials as of January 5, 2016

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Mr. Hampl makes a motion, second by Ms. Frost, to authorize Mr. Roy, or his designee, to attend the planning board meeting and speak on behalf of the commission noting concerns of wetland impacts. Motion passes unanimously; 6/0.

Appointment

Mr. Roy makes a motion, second by Ms. Frost, to appoint Grace Levergood, P.E. to the conservation commission, with a term through March 2017. Motion passes unanimously; 6/0.

Complaint

Mr. Roy states that he received a call from the state notifying him of a potential dredging in a wetland. He states that he did look into the matter and concurred that there was some activity. He states that, as a resident of the town, he did submit a complaint to NHDES consisting of a tax map and a brief description of the impacts from the project.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan makes a motion, second by Mr. Hampl, to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Motion passes unanimously; 6/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Board Secretary