

**Town of Northwood  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
May 5, 2015**

Vice Chairman Steven Hampl calls the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

**Present:** Vice Chairman Steven Hampl, James Ryan, Thomas Chase, Alternate Loren O'Neil, Board Administrator Linda Smith, Board Secretary Lisa Fellows-Weaver.

**Absent:** Chairman Steve Roy, Wini Young, Paul Lussier, and Alternate Michael Matson.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Ms. Smith introduces Paul and James Cavarretta. She explains that she met with James Caveretta regarding an intermittent stream with seasonal runoff of storm water that goes through the back portion of the property. She recommended they meet with the commission to discuss options for a permit or other options. She notes that they would like to add a culvert to access the back portion of the property.

Mr. James Caveretta explains that the culvert will be wide enough to allow a pick up or tractor to go over it. There will be no road built; it is solely for the purpose of access. He notes that the total property acreage is 5.42 and borders the transfer station property. The culvert would be about 1/3 back and would grant access to 4 acres in the rear. He adds that he does not believe that there are wetlands in the back. He adds that he does farming and would like to be able to access the back portion as it is a large area. Mr. James Caveretta states that the town also has a culvert as well as the neighbor on the other side.

Mr. Hampl states that the commission is not sure as to what exists on the property and recommends they speak with NHDES as they are the permitting agency.

**CONSIDERATION of APPLICATIONS**

***Wetland Permit Application:***

***Camp Wah-Tut-Ca/Yankee Clipper Council, Map 224; Lot 9***

*Continued from April 7, 2014*

Joel DeStasio of the NH Division Trout Unlimited is present to address the final applications for a project to restore instream aquatic habitat within Gulf Brook, which runs into Northwood Lake.

Mr. Hampl states that he attended a site walk of the area with Mr. DeStasio. He explains that they both walked and viewed the area that will create the habitat for the fish, with the hope that it will encourage the fish to use the upstream habitat.

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Mr. Hampl states that there was one outstanding item, which was to determine who was in control and had the authority to sign permission for the property.

Mr. DeStasio states that the permission letter has been revised. He states that Tracey Degnan of Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) followed up with the Yankee Clipper Counsel and she obtained a permission letter with the correct names of the executive directors of the counsel. He states that everything else has been addressed.

Mr. DeStasio states that there was some discussion as to the headwaters area. He explains that he further reviewed the site work plan and this area of the stream has been described as an emergent wetland and it will not be disturbed. The plan is to focus on the middle reach which is downstream off of Gulf Rd.; they are only focusing on that area. He states that it is 150' to 200' from the confluence of Northwood Lake. He adds that there is no benefit for adding large wood to these other areas, which includes of side open, swampy, and solar exposed areas, with similar conditions.

Mr. Hampl asks if other sections of the area will be able to be reviewed for future projects. Mr. DeStasio replies yes and explains that this past summer he visited the easements and took water samples, water parameters, and defined a profile of the water over the summer. He states that this summer they plan to do the installations, take samples, and sample again next summer, 2016.

Mr. Hampl asks about the pH levels of the water. Mr. DeStasio explains that the pH is 5 to 7. He states that rain events affect the pH levels; however, this area is not getting below a 5 and is not going over a 7. He states that this means that this area is neutral to acidic as is common for the fresh water pH range.

Ms. Smith states that she spoke with Tracy Degnan as she was the authorized representative from the land owner, and she sent an email relative to Joel DeStasio that he is acting on behalf of them.

**Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Mr. Hampl, for Mr. Hampl, to sign the application as complete. Motion passes; 3/0/1.** Mr. Ryan abstains.

**MINUTES**

**April 7, 2015**

**Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Mr. Ryan, to approve the April 7, 2015 minutes, as written. Motion passes unanimously; 4/0**

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**MAIN BUSINESS**

***NRI & Assessment Report for the Yeaton Town Land***

Ms. Smith explains that Rick Van de Poll has provided copy and a DVD of the Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment Report for the Yeaton property.

Members will come into the town offices and review the report at their leisure.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Letter of Resignation***

Ms. Smith provides a letter of resignation received from Paul Lussier. Mr. Hampl reads the letter into the record noting that he is unable to attend the meetings now due to his job. He adds that the commission appreciated his service. **Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Ms. O'Neil, to accept the resignation of Paul Lussier, with regret. Motion passes unanimously; 4/0**

***Johnson Donation Update***

Ms. Smith provides an update relative to the Johnson property. She explains that everything has been done and the next step is to receive the information from the title company. The documents will then be sent off to the property owner for signatures.

Mr. Hampl offers to attend the meeting with the selectmen for necessary signatures, when applicable.

Mr. Chase mentions adding picnic tables in the area or the Leopold benches. Ms. Smith states that the BOS have jurisdiction relative to adding the picnic tables.

**INTERNAL BUSINESS**

***Members***

A discussion is held regarding the number of members on the commission. Ms. Smith suggests that the commission consider changing from 7 full members to 5 members and change the commission's procedures to reflect the change. She states that the RSA states that there can be no less than three members and no more than seven members; alternates can be appointed and there is no limit of alternates. She states that for three or four years the commission has been running on just six members making a quorum of four needed. There are now five regular members.

Ms. O'Neil asks if reducing the committee would then put too much authority on the individuals. Ms. Smith states that there needs to be four members now for a quorum. She states that if the commission cannot consistently have seven members present then why have that many on the committee. She adds that it is very difficult to do business when people are out or she suggests adding two

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members and another alternate to the committee if they prefer to have a 7 member commission.

Mr. Chase states that with the absence of Mr. Roy and Ms. Young, he would prefer to not do anything precipitous this evening. He adds that he understands the issue and agrees; however, he would not like to see the commission be reduced to three members; meaning that two people could have the authority to make decisions. Ms. Smith adds that the commission could have a procedure that any vote must have three members in the affirmative. Mr. Hampl states that these are all valid comments and concerns.

This item is continued to next month.

**OTHER**

***Site Walk Notes***

***Camp Wah-Tut-Ca/Yankee Clipper Council, Map 224; Lot 9***

Mr. Hampl provides an overview of the site walk for the fish restoration project. He explains that both he and Mr. DeStasio walked the area and Mr. DeStasio pointed out where trees were down on their own and were partially in the water. He explains that there are “riffle” areas going on with regard to many of the trees that are down. This is a habitat that the fish like and they also create an acceleration of the water and it cleans the stream bottom. He adds the project will also add trees and a culvert which will cause shade and the riffle effect. He states that it was very interesting.

**Land Acquisition/Projects**

***Non-Public Session***

**Mr. Hampl makes a motion, second by Ms. O’Neil, to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A3:II(d) at 8:15 p.m.**

***Roll Call Vote***

**Tom Chase – yes**

**Loren O’Neil - yes**

**Steve Hampl –yes**

**Jim Ryan – yes**

**Motion passes unanimously; 4/0.**

**Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Ms. O’Neil, to come out of non-public session at 8:17 p.m.**

***Roll Call Vote***

**Tom Chase – yes**

**Loren O’Neil - yes**

**Steve Hampl –yes**

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**Jim Ryan – yes**

**Motion passes unanimously; 4/0.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence is reviewed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Ryan makes a motion, second by Mr. Chase, to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.**

**Motion passes unanimously; 4/0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fellows-Weaver  
Board Secretary