

NEW DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

27 JUNE 2017

Present: Ron Gehl (Chair), Curtis Richard (Vice Chair), Bob Craycraft (Alternate), Heather Freeman, Bill Malay (Alternate), Mark Sullivan

Vice Chair Richard called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm and designated Mr. Craycraft and Mr. Malay to sit in as voting members.

Review of Minutes

There were no minutes prepared from last meeting to review, and was tabled until the next meeting when they're available.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Notifications of Compliance Inspection

The commission reviewed memos from NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) stating that they sent letters to three property owners in town informing them of upcoming compliance inspections for the permitted projects they completed. NHDES is conducting inspections of certain wetland and non-site specific permitted projects in town from June through September. Properties include 29 Tash Road (Map 252 Lot 76), 120 Bracket Road (Map 243 Lot 33), and Old Bay Road/Silver Street property (Map 247, Lot 2).

Notification of Failed Standard Dredge and Fill Permit Application

NHDES sent a notification to the property owners at 251 North Shore Rd to request more information for the permit they completed. The application called for replacing a seasonal pier with a longer pier anchored to an existing concrete bulkhead on Merrymeeting Lake.

Chair Gehl entered the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Shaws Pond Property

Mr. Malay opened a discussion on conservation options for a town-owned property located at Map 209, Lot 46 along Shaws Pond. The property is about 54 acres, is forested, and consists of very steep slopes. There is about 400ft of frontage along Kings Highway. Mr. Malay stated that having the property designated as a town forest is one option for conservation, since the town already owns the property. Another option is to have it put into an easement held by a third-party property owner. There is a right-of-way access road with a deteriorating concrete bridge that serves this property as well as three other properties along Shaws Pond, however, it is not

known who owns the road. The Commission noted that it is probably best to figure out who owns the road before heavily exploring these options. Mr. Gehl also mentioned that it can be very difficult to transfer a property to a town forest, and town forests are also not permanent like an easement is. Mr. Gehl stated that another option is having a third party purchase the property from the Town as a 'conservation buyer'. The buyer could be local residents, a land trust, or just someone involved in sustainable forestry. The Commission decided to table the discussion until next time until more questions can be answered. Mr. Gehl mentioned that he will seek some free legal consultation in the meantime.

Review of Mail

Commission members reviewed mail, which mostly consisted of newsletters from various organizations.

At 8:15 pm, Mr. Craycraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis Richard
Vice Chairman