

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Grantham Conservation Commission

MEETING MINUTES August 15, 2011

Chairman Richard L. Hocker called the Conservation Commission to order on Monday, August 15, 2011, at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Room at Grantham Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH.

Present: Chairman Richard (Dick) Hocker; Merle Schotanus; Lindsey Dixon; Joe Watts (*Alternate*); and Kristina Burgard (*Alternate*).

Absent: Andy Eastman; Jeremy Turner

Members of the public: None

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of Minutes for 18 July 2011 Hearing & Meeting

Chair Hocker asked the Commission members if there were any changes to the draft minutes for the July 18, 2011 Public Hearing and Commission Meeting

There being none, *Burgard moved to approve and accept the July 18, 2011 Minutes as written; second by Schotanus. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote. Unanimously Approved & Accepted*

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

OTHER BUSINESS

Appraisals on Hasting's Properties 208-001 and 208-002

Chair Hocker reported that the appraised value for the 97-acre Hasting's parcel (Lot 208-002) was not below the agreed upon sale price for this lot; however, the projected closing in the third week of August for this parcel is delayed for other reasons. Specifically, the survey indicated a lot line adjustment is needed along the border with Merton Hasting's property. It is Chair Hocker's understanding that Town Administrator Newton is working on the lot line adjustment, and the new estimated closing for this parcel is expected some time in mid-September.

Chair Hocker reported that the appraised value for the 24-acre Hastings parcel (Lot 208-001) came in well below the \$48,000 asking price. Chair Hocker opened discussion on whether the Commission wanted to pursue Lot 208-001 at this time. Schotanus indicated that in his opinion the Commission should not pursue this property at the present time. Burgard stated that in light

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of the limited financial resources available for conservation efforts after the purchase of Hastings Lot 208-002, it seems prudent to keep those resources on hand for potentially higher priority parcels.

There being no further discussion, Schotanus moved to abandon any efforts to pursue the Hastings 24-acre parcel (Lot 208-001) at this time in order reserve financial resources for potentially higher priority properties; second by Dixon. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

Unanimously Approved.

Planning for Conservation –

Continue Planning for Wetlands Inventory project – Next steps

Chair Hocker reported that Dr. Rick Van de Poll has not yet sent the mapping results and list of wetland units for evaluation. Dixon volunteered to contact Dr. Van de Poll to get a status report and advise him of the need to get these results as soon as possible. The Commission agreed that the final date for conducting on-site evaluations would be October 31st.

The Commission discussed updating the Wetland Volunteers on the status of the project, and Dixon agreed to prepare and send an update email to the Volunteers. Burgard reported that the Wetland Volunteer Resources website page is active, and the email should include directing the Volunteers to this page on the website for refreshers of their training. In addition, Burgard and Dixon will set up a training evaluation on one of the properties where the owner has already given the Commission access permission.

Shoreland Protection – Grantham Status

Chair Hocker reported that while the Commission has no official role in determining Shoreland Protection issues, the Selectmen have asked the Commission to advise them on a number of current situations, including those involving Rum Brook Market (on-going), Eastman's 5-Year Plan (approved by Selectmen), East Lake Condos (approved by Selectmen), West Cove A (on-going), and Road Around the Lake (on-going).

Chair Hocker advised that to date, the Commission has not received a request from the Selectmen to provide input on drafting procedures for dealing with Shoreland Protection issues covered by Grantham's Zoning Ordinances.

Annual Inspection of Flewelling Easements Property

Chair Hocker indicated that the annual inspection required under the Flewelling conservation easements is usually conducted in September. He is working on scheduling this year's inspection, and will invite the Selectmen, the current landowners, Steve Walker (from the State), and all Commission members. All Commissioners were asked to advise of their availability in September.

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Chair Hocker reported that Town Administrator Newton is working on scheduling a meeting of all interested parties to discuss various issues relating to the Flewelling conservation easements. He also advised that to date, the Selectmen have not resolved the issue raised by the current owners regarding the Smith lot sign.

Other Matters

Schotanus announced that Ausbon Sargent and the UNH Cooperative Extension are sponsoring a workshop entitled “Managing Your Land for Wildlife: An Historical Overview and Strategies for Today” on Saturday, October 15, 2011, from 9am-12:30pm at Muster Field Farm in Sutton. He cannot attend, but encourages any Commissioner’s who can attend to register by the October 12th deadline by contacting Nancy Smith at aslptnancy@tds.net or 526-6555.

HAND OUTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hocker asked if there were any further business. There being none, Schotanus moved to adjourn, and Watts seconded the motion.

The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on September 19, 2011, in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristina Burgard

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Grantham Conservation Commission, Alternate