

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Grantham Conservation Commission

MEETING MINUTES September 19, 2011

Chairman Richard L. Hocker called the Conservation Commission to order on Monday, September 19, 2011, at 7:00 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; Jeremy Turner; Joe Watts (*Alternate*) and Kristina Burgard (*Alternate*).

Absent: Andy Eastman; Lindsey Dixon

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of Minutes for 15 August 2011 Meeting

Chair Hocker asked the Commission members if there were any additions/corrections/modifications to be made to the draft minutes for the August 15, 2011 meeting.

With no corrections to be made a motion by Schotanus to approve and accept the August 15, 2011 Minutes as written; second by Burgard. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.

Unanimously Approved & Accepted

*OTHER BUSINESS

Purchase of Hasting's property 208-002

Chair Hocker explained that he has heard from Upper Valley Land Trust regarding the purchase of Hasting's Lot No. 208-002. There appear to be lot line issues uncovered by the survey that need to be resolved before the sale can be completed.

Watts questioned if anyone has talked with the owners? Chair Hocker explained that at this point in time it is between Karen Hastings, the adjacent property owners, and the representatives, to come to an agreement regarding the location of the lot line, which will then allow the survey to be finalized. There is nothing for the Commission to do at this point.

****Planning for Conservation –***

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Continue Planning for Wetlands Inventory project – Next steps

Chair Hocker noted that the Commission laid out a schedule with Dr. Van de Poll at the start of the Wetlands Inventory project, and at this point it is about two months behind schedule. The Commission just received his third invoice (which would bring the amount paid to \$9,000.00 out of the \$12,800 total.) Chair Hocker asked the Commission if they were all comfortable with making the third payment. Schotanus stated that at the September 18, 2011 meeting with Dr. Van de Poll, he felt that Dr. Van De Poll clearly indicated that he understood the importance of completing the evaluation work as soon as possible.

Schotanus noted that Dr. Van de Poll believes that the most recent aerial photography is so good and accurate that on-site evaluations may not be necessary for many wetland units. Also, Dr. Van de Poll stated in the meeting that he is comfortable that evaluations will be completed such that the remaining deadlines can be met on time.

Burgard noted that Dr. Van de Poll stated in the meeting that he recognizes that the project is behind schedule due to demands on his time, and that if the Commissions no longer has enough volunteers to do the work, he is available to step in where needed, including taking part in some of the evaluations.

Schotanus restated that he is confident that everything will be back on schedule and that deadlines would be met. Chair Hocker will notify Melissa White that she can submit the invoiced third payment to Dr. Van de Poll.

****Shoreland Protection – Grantham Status***

Chair Hocker explained that the Select Board periodically asks the Commission to advise them in connection with cutting applications, the most recent one relating to 428 Road Around the Lake. For this application, Eastman Community Association has already done a site visit to assess the proposed cutting, and Chair Hocker and Selectmen Warren Kimball also made a visit that resulted in them removing a flag from one oak tree, and they approved the rest of the proposed cut.

Chair Hocker indicated that he expects there will be more to address relating to Shoreland Protection issues in the near future.

Annual Inspection of Flewelling Easements Property Proposed Date October 1

Chair Hocker stated that the Town is required to perform an annual walk of the property subject to the Flewelling easements, and the Commission performs these walks at the request of the Select Board. Chair Hocker proposed that this year's walk be scheduled on October 1, 2011. This date gives the current propertyowner a chance to be there during the walk and Dixon will back in town then so this date will provide her an opportunity to do an annual walk under these easements.

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Chair Hocker explained that as part of the annual walk, the Commission will look again at the proposed alternate snowmobile access route that Andy Eastman outlined over a year ago as a potential compromise to address the current owners complaints about the access route specified in the easements. Burgard queried whether the proposed alternate snowmobile access route would be safe in terms of visibility on Miller Pond Road. Chair Hocker explained that the Blue Mountain Snowdusters have they will not be providing any comments on the proposed alternate route or its suitability for snowmobiles.

With regard to the proposed meeting with the current property owners, the Town, and the State to discuss the current owner's concerns about the easements terms, Chair Hocker indicated that Town Administrator Newton is organizing the meeting, and she sent a letter to Steve Walker (who is the State's designated representative for these easements) about two weeks ago. He anticipates there will be some proposed dates for the meeting in the near future.

Status of Frog Pond Conservation

Chair Hocker explained that he has contacted Ken Ryder, who indicated that he has engaged an engineer who is assessing the 12 acres Frog Pond and the adjoining 5 acres land that Eastman owns for the purpose of carving out a spot at that site for Eastman to place stumps and road waste. Chair Hocker stated that he will stay on top of this matter.

OTHER BUSINESS

With regard to the approved cutting in the Town Forest, Turner noted that the proposed logging could move forward now as the timber market is pretty decent after Hurricane Irene. Turner stated that the last time he spoke with the loggers, he had to put them on hold due to the storm damage to Mountain Road, but since then the access has been fixed.

Schotanus stated that he had received a flyer for the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust's October 15th workshop on Managing Your Property for Wildlife and wanted to call the Commission's attention to this workshop. Burgard noted that the flyer was distributed at the last meeting.

HAND OUTS

ASLPT 10/15/2011 Workshop flyer

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on October 17, 2011, in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Smith

Grantham Conservation Commission, Clerk