

DRAFT MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AUGUST 10, 2016

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Lisa Oden, David McTigue, Karen Miller, Matt Oliveira, Lori Rautiola, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Representative)
ABSENT: Jack Messe

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

The minutes of the July 6, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Lands: The Commission conversed about having all conservation land put into a third party easement. Kleta questioned what the risks and benefits would be. Bob mentioned if the land can be easily encroached it should be into an easement.

Water Resources: Karen and David gave a report on their meeting with the Planning Board regarding the Ground Water Protection Ordinance. Karen noted she feels strongly that the Board will support Conservation Commission as long as the wording of the Ordinance is kept neat, tidy and straight forward so people can understand it. Liz Freeman and Ed Dekker are willing to help with the language of the Ordinance. David added he has looked over the "working draft" which is basically the template from the State and noted Liz had gone through and changed some things to make it more straight forward. Bob responded his only suggestion would be to pay close attention to the time as the Commission needs to meet the deadline for the Ordinance which is by mid-November.

Lisa reported on the Stream Buffer Ordinance. The Planning Board would like to know what the Stream Buffer Ordinance and the Ground Water Protection Ordinance would cover that the State does not already protect. For example: is the Town being more restrictive than the State, what would the Ordinances accomplish, what is most important to have and what is nice to have? Lisa noted it is mostly a matter of having the information organized into a fact sheet and answering the Planning Board's questions. Matt mentioned we need to present three things to the Planning Board which would be the fact sheet, the Ordinance itself, and changes made to the Ordinance.

Bob gave an overview of the Wetland Permit process. He explained the State forms change often and have expiration dates on the bottom of the page. Documents from the NHDES website were distributed and Bob noted the focus would be more on minimal impacts as these are the most common impacts the Town receives. The three common types of projects in New Ipswich are 1) *Maintenance Dredge* - maintaining dredging when necessary to provide continued usefulness of nontidal drainage ditches, man-made ponds, and spillways, 2) *Dry Hydrant* - for a dry hydrant only, excavation of less than 10 linear feet within the bank and bed of a surface water that does not exceed 200 square feet in total jurisdictional impact to the bed, and 3) *Culvert/Bridge Replacement* - the replacement of a

culvert/bridge on a watercourse with a contributing watershed less than or equal to 25 acres to permit vehicular access to one single family lot or for noncommercial recreational use.

Bob went over the *Routine Roadway and Railway Maintenance Activities Notification*. He noted this has to do with the culverts and believes the Highway Department should be submitting this form when replacing culverts. However this would have to go through the Board of Selectmen. Bob mentioned having David go to the Selectmen's meeting to discuss. Bob would also like to contact Peter Goewey beforehand so he can attend the meeting as well.

The next form discussed was the *Wetland's Permit Application*. This form is either expedited or standard. The expedited permit means the Conservation Commission has 14 days to review and intervene. If the Commission intervenes, that day is subtracted from the 14 days. If the Commission does not intervene, the permit converts to a standard wetland's permit. The wetlands permits must be voted on by the Commission or they are considered to be void. If the permit has a wetland scientist stamp on it, that is a good sign and the permit should most likely be expedited. Bob added minimal impact is ok to expedite.

The next document was distributed. This document showed the minimum impact project types: Less than 3,000 square feet, shoreline frontage, stream crossings, and utility line installations. Bob pointed out the restrictions that go along with these types of impacts. He then gave an example of what accompanies a wetland permit when submitted, including maps. He noted the applicant must include five copies of the permit with the application.

New Business: There was discussion regarding timber harvest and the impacts it has on wetlands, and if the Town should have an ordinance or if the Commission should speak to our State legislature regarding this issue.

Upcoming Events: It was decided that the annual meeting would be on October 19, 2016. Bob noted on Saturday, November 5th there is NHACC annual meeting in Concord that has workshops which can be valuable to new members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Rautiola, Secretary