

MINUTES OF MEETING
March 17, 2010
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Approved on 4/7/2010

PRESENT- Walter Kalin, **Co. Chair**, Tobias Paddock, Deb. Williams, Leslie Thompson, and Lisa Morin

ABSENT- Marnie Schulz, Hillary Martin, and Dean Anson

STAFF –Scott McPhie, Planning Technician

I. **Call to Order:** The March 17, 2010 meeting of the Laconia Conservation Commission was called to order at 6:10 PM by W. Kalin.

II. **Old Business:**

Approval of Minutes: 2/17/2010

H. Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as written. L. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Budget expenditures remaining-please bring in any outstanding bills, memberships, or other assumed expenses for fiscal year end June 30, 2010.

L. Thompson requested reimbursement for attending the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions in Concord last fall. The LCC (Laconia Conservation Commission) agreed to reimburse her because other members were reimbursed for their attendance. S. McPhie requested a written verification of her attendance would be helpful so the finance department can account for the expense.

McDonald's site plan comments on conditional use permit-proposal to replace the existing restaurant with a smaller building. The property is partially located in the State Shore land Protection Zone, borders Black Brook, and is located at 1231 Union Street across from Paugus Bay. (Tax map parcels 325-220-4 &5)

S. McPhie reviewed the extensive comment list generated after McDonald's initial presentation. He highlighted the environmentally related comments and addressed specific concerns expressed by the LCC. McDonald's agreed the facility will not use phosphorous fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides, and snow will be stored away from the wetland buffer areas, and portions of the existing parking lot located in the buffer area will be removed.

III. **New Business:**

Lisa Morin- Coordinator Belknap County Conservation District Program Highlights 2009

L. Morin passed around a brochure and described the current services offered by the Belknap County Conservation District. She requested the LCC provide her with other ideas on how they could assist them. Currently the district provides independent engineering site plan and subdivision review. W. Kalin suggested the District should do more educational seminars on current environmental topics.

Vernal Pool and Easement Walks- schedule a weekly visit of all nine conservation easements during prime vernal pool identification season

S. McPhie described his visit to the Hamel State Forest and the ability to locate only one vernal pool with egg masses. It is believed vernal pools will become active earlier this year because of the abrupt end to the winter. He presented the annual date for vernal pool activity beginning in with Wood Frogs from April 10-April 25 and Salamanders from April 20-May 10. The dates were provided by the Maine Bureau of Land and Water Quality.

Elections

Tabled until a future meeting

IV. **Liaison & Sub-Committee Reports**

Planning Board Liaison – T. Paddock

T. Paddock reported the Laconia Planning Board approved the 25% impact fee ordinance which has been sent to Council. Council will take action on the ordinance in April. The impact fee will be calculated using a formula that will vary depending on the size and financial impact on City

services. S. McPhie handed W. Kalin a copy of the draft steep slopes ordinance. T. Paddock explained the ordinance was still under review with positive debate slowing down the process. The LCC supported the ordinance citing two points: 1. If developers are allowed to build in areas in excess of 23 % slope will they have the expertise and hands on experience to do it properly. 2. Who will be responsible for the short-term engineering and supervision of the site plan and does the average engineer have the time to monitor adverse future impacts to the environment. The Cities concern involves poorly constructed projects that would increase long term infrastructure maintenance costs. Bond amounts should be adjusted appropriately.

Permit Sub-Committee – W. Kalin, M. Schulz

W. Kalin reviewed the replacement of deteriorating footings for an existing storage building on Lake Winnepesaukee for the Winnepesaukee Flagship Corporation, a shore land application permit for Brandan Florio at 88 Morning Side Drive, and a minimum impact expedited application by Stonecrest Condominium Association to repair and replace existing dock structures. All comments will be forwarded to New Hampshire DES.

V. Other Business

Ideas for Durkee Brook

S. McPhie said a resident inquired about another Durkee Brook Clean up day. The LCC explained the area was cleared three times recently and felt other sections are a higher priority today.

Look Off Rock Update

The project has made it through the approval process and a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled in the late spring or summer.

Updated open space map

S. McPhie presented the updated open space map with the aquifer layer removed and the addition of the visible street layer. The map will be available for the LCC to use on various projects.

Commissioners Comments

L. Morin announced the Lake Opechee milfoil removal information session will be held on March 31, 2010 at the Belknap County Complex on Route 106 at 6 PM.

W. Kalin requested the roundabout discussion correspondence be discussed at the April 7, 2010 meeting so members could answer the required DOT questions.

W. Kalin requested an update on the Earth day planting activities and asked if Marnie Schulz would be taking part this year.

VI. **Adjournment**

D. Williams made the motion to adjourn. L. Morin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.