

MINUTES OF MEETING
April 12, 2011
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Approved at the June 22, 2011 meeting

PRESENT- Dean Anson, Chair, Leslie Thompson, Debra Williams, Hillary May, and Lisa Morin

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Dunleavy, Park Recreation Director Tim Ford, Park Recreation grounds expert, Scott McPhie, Conservation Staff and Douglas Greiner, ASLA representing Margate expedited Dredge and fill application.

ABSENT- Marnie Schulz and Tobias Paddock.

CALL TO ORDER the meeting was called to order by D. Anson at 6 PM

II. New Business:

a. Laconia Park Recreation Department one on one-discussion of field maintenance activities, River walk tree Id, and Weirs Beach water quality education

D. Anson explained his concerns about phosphorus and pesticide application and their impacts on Lake Water Quality. The idea for the Don't "P" in the Lake campaign came about when the Town of Meredith New Hampshire on prompting from the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association decided to go forward with the concept.

D. Anson asked what Laconia is doing to follow a similar path to reduction of these substances. K. Dunleavy explained the many positive steps T. Ford has taken to reduce the need for pesticides and phosphorus in their fertilizer and field maintenance applications. They also informed the LCC they cannot tonight say they can totally eliminate the application of these materials right away. They can say they are doing everything they can on a long term basis to reduce or limit these substances on a case by case basis.

T. Ford explained the most important aspect of eliminating phosphorus and pesticides on athletic fields is to feed the soils not the grass. A soil test is always conducted so over time, with proper maintenance, excess phosphorus will not need to be added. Proper maintenance will prevent a takeover of invasive animals or plants reducing the need for pesticides and herbicides'. K. Dunleavy explained we are here tonight to assure you we are already working to reduce excess phosphorus applications and apply natural alternatives to pesticides. Currently certain challenging fields require use of some pesticides and new field surface creation will require phosphorus fertilizers to generate new growth. The Park Recreation Department is balancing the needs of the athlete's safety, environmental protection and the economics of field management.

D. Anson thanked the presenters and agreed to work together to continue to reduce the need for major phosphorus and pesticide use by following the Laconia Park Recreations commitment to feed the soils not the grass to build up a healthier less chemically dependent field management system. All agreed this would be a positive step forward. The Conservation Commission would take the lead to educate the public on the concept.

Members then expressed concerns about the use of Class 1 bio-solids on Lake Opechee fields because of concerns about smells and heavy metals content. K. Dunleavy explained No Class B bio-solids were used only class A were applied. The science behind the recycling of waste is quite extensive and the product produced today is believed to be much better than past applications. The LCC still was not convinced applying materials this close to Opechee and the middle school was a good idea.

K. Dunleavy was happy to work with the LCC to create a tree ID day for the River walk. No date was chosen tonight.

K. Dunleavy also encouraged the LCC to become involved with the Weirs Beach Water quality education campaign. Locating the source of contamination that forces beaches to close in the summer as well as preventing contamination from reaching the lake is the long term goal. The challenge is peak e-coli problems occur when the temperatures are hot water levels are lower, the tourists are numerous, and natural wildlife are active. control of these factors is limited leaving education of the general public a major priority. D. Anson believed the project was worthwhile but hesitated to commit to anything yet until there was further data available to determine a major cause of the problem.

b. Douglas H. Greiner, ASLA, will present plans for the Margate Resort Patio and Shoreline Enhancement Project and the parcel is located in the State Shoreland Protection District, the Local Wetland conservation and water quality (WC) overlay district and is located at 6 Lake Street tax map parcel 303-23-2

D. Greiner presented the extensive Margate landscaping plan arrived at working while the State of New Hampshire Shoreland Protection division. One objective arrived at was the removal of excessive grass located on the shores of Paugus Bay.

The Margate is requesting placement of a deck within the protected Shoreland buffer for enhancement of their reception business. Rain gardens will be required creating storm water filtration up to and including the five year storm. Existing drainage will include perforated pipes and some direct lake discharge. NH DES requires extensive plantings which will act as not only an aesthetic enhancement but an erosion break. All runoff would no longer sheet flow into the lake and be treated at some level improving current conditions.

D. Anson appreciated the work involved in the project but suggested additional measures including placing a berm on the stream outlet where it enters Paugus Bay and berming the length of the entire site to slow down flows higher than the 5-year storm. D. Grenier explained the financial costs and indicated they will be placing turbidity curtains, silt socks, and filter fabric in place during construction. He also explained a berm as part of the landscaping where the stream enters Paugus Bay is possible. The long berm across the entire site would not be feasible because of the current uses of the existing site. He again explained the extensive environmental improvements to the site. Drip irrigation will also be put in place to conserve water and prevent excessive man made runoff. L. Morin reminded the applicant about the rough weather on that side of the lake and how proper maintenance of the plantings will be needed.

H. May made a motion to sign the expedited dredge and fill with the condition to add a note to the site plan banning the use of phosphorus, pesticides and herbicides and improve the and berm the area where the stream shown on the plan located on the northern section of the site enters Paugus Bay. The motion was seconded by L. Morin. The motion passed 5-0-0.

**c. Non-Public Session concerning land acquisition per RSA: 91: A: 3
II (d) -roll call vote required to enter non-public session**

D. Anson read above petition to enter non-public session. A unanimous roll call vote was heard.

d. Minutes for the January 31, March 16, and March 30, 2011(Public & Non-public)

D. Williams made a motion to approve the January 31, 2011 minutes as amended. L. Morin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

D. Williams made a motion to approve the March 16, 2011 minutes as written. L. Morin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

D. Williams made a motion to approve the March 30, 2011 public and non-public minutes as written. L. Morin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

**e. Commissioners comments concerning upcoming work
Sessions'**

H, May tabled the issue concerning the protection of Laconia Girls & Boys Club land in Gilford

L. Thompson invited everyone to the open space event on Monday April 18, 2011

S. McPhie added a head count on participation at the transfer station event is needed for Saturday April 16, 2011. Marnie Schulz and he will be on hand for this event. The

Conservation Commission is involved with the event to bring attention to the impact of, proper disposal of and elimination of invasive species. A test area for monitoring the removal of invasive species at the transfer station will also be a long range goal to achieve.

III. Adjournment:

M. Schulz made a motion to adjourn the motion was seconded by D. Williams and passed 3-0-0.