

Greenfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Michelle Hall

April 24, 2019

Attendees: Roger Lessard, Karen Day, Carol Irvin, Kate Dean, Candi Fowler, Stephanie Kokal

Dorene Adams was present and swore in Carol Irvin and Candi Fowler to the Conservation Commission for their terms.

The meeting was called to order 7:30pm by Chairperson Roger Lessard.

400 New Boston Rd; minimum expedited wetlands permit application

Chris Guida from Fieldstone Land Consultants spoke about a driveway permit for existing lot; Map: R7-16, which would branch off from the current common driveway. Chris explained that there are 2 existing logging road drainage crossings, but they are looking to make something permanent. They would like the GCC's approval of this, then they will go to NHDES and ZBA afterward. Carol asked if it is appropriate to sign off before special exception is granted. Chris explained that if GCC signs off today, and they are denied by ZBA, then this plan goes no further. GCC members discussed whether they should approve or recommend. Chris explained the difference between a variance and a special exception. Carol asked about the need to build up the grade by 5'. Chris explained that it's necessary to add fill in order to reduce the grade. The existing culvert would be removed and a new bigger one would be installed with a head wall at either end. They would be installing a 24" culvert, which shouldn't adversely affect wildlife. Everyone was ok with Roger signing off on recommendation from the GCC. Roger signed off and discussion ended.

Accept or Amend Previous Meeting Minutes

Roger asked if anyone had an issue with the minutes. Carol said that there were only a few things where minutes reported that Carol said she would do something when it was Karen and vice versa. Stephanie motioned to approve the minutes as they are. Karen seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

NRI Review Status

Karen explained that she sent everything to SWRPC. She is waiting for Henry Underwood at SWRPC to get back to her with the final changes before printing the finished product.

Review GCC portion of 2017 Master Plan, Impaired Waters

Carol explained that everything is low impact, maximum load study and that everything in Greenfield is classified as low impairment. M5 (a pollutant) and MP (oxygen) were found in Sunset Lake. Zephyr Lake had chlorophyll A in the water test. Carol has not called NHDES yet, but is planning to. Roger suggested that if we wanted to take any action, it would be to educate property owners along the affected lakes, Zephyr Lake and Sunset Lake. Roger recommended reprinting NHDES info and posting it in The Greenfield Spirit. Stephanie made a statement that Zephyr Lake has been closed several times due to E coli, and asked if this was part of what they study. The commission believes that this is attributed to toddlers wearing soiled diapers in the water at the beach. Karen stated that she is aware of beaver

activity in Zephyr Lake. Karen also stated that there is a lot of plant life in the shallow waters at Zephyr Lake. Carol will look into finding out more on what the study is and what best practices are for homeowners.

Perennial Calendar

Roger asked what the GCC would have in mind for activities in June and July. Karen reminded the GCC that June is the month when turtles are searching for places to lay eggs, and suggested that we present a program on that subject. Someone suggested that we ask David Carroll, a famous author of books on that subject, from Warner NH. Karen also mentioned Dr. Barry Wicklow, an acquaintance from Frankestown, who may still be teaching biology at St. Anselm College. Karen will follow up on both of these ideas. Roger will check to see when the Bennington Conservation Commission does its annual float down the Contoocook River. Roger will check with BCC member Joe MacGregor to see about the possibility of doing something in conjunction with them on the same day. Candi's September 21st butterfly presentation will take place at 10:30am at the library. She invited everyone to join in.

Finalize plans for the Roadside Roundup

Roger explained that the GCC will set up at the Recycling Center's overhead door. Food and related supplies have been ordered from Harvester Market, using the town charge account. Everyone discussed when they will be at the Recycling Center to help. Roger explained that the budget for this event is \$375, which is more than adequate for what is planned. Roger asked to use some of the surplus money to purchase a tote in which to store the non-food items for next year's Roundup. All agreed that this was ok. Roger advised that everyone should park where the scrap tire pile is. Roger will collect the left-over blue bags from all 5 locations after the event. In keeping with our effort to reduce the use of disposable plastic, Roger stated that we will not offer water in plastic bottles. Instead, we will supply flavored seltzer water in aluminum cans.

Programs

Roger stated that none of this year's expanded program budget has been spent. We'll see what the proposed turtle program might cost. Karen said that next winter might be a good time to present a program on bobcats. NH Fish & Game offers one for free.

Well Water Testing Update

The tentative NHDES presentation schedule is for August 1st or 8th. The water collecting would be on August 11th. Roger has not heard back from NHDES yet. He reserved both those dates at the library. He added that NHDES will explain how to interpret the test results at this year's presentation, as some folks did not understand how to read the results that they received.

Pollinator Project Meadow Park

The proposed project to convert the grassy field atop the community septic system/leach field is projected to take three years to complete. Kate is looking into a source for seeds. There are a number of companies which donate seeds for conservation projects. Roger was thinking that it might have a bigger visual impact if the wildflowers were to be seeded along the 400' length of the field, along its northern edge, next to the access road. Roger went on to explain that we will lay down black 6 mil plastic to kill all

the grass and any existing plant life. The GCC does not want to use herbicides. We considered using corrugated cardboard since it breaks down, and it would not need to be picked up. However, it would be a challenge to secure enough cardboard to do the job in the projected time frame, would be difficult to hold in place and to keep moist, and would be rather unsightly. We plan to re-purpose the split rail fence, by dismantling it and using the components to hold down the plastic. Kate will research the cost of acquiring enough plastic to cover 50' by 400'. Candi suggested that monarch.org may supply seeds for free. Seed mix would be about \$500 for 1/3 acre, which does not include the blueberry bushes to replace the fence. Kate explained that every few years the site will need to be mowed in order to prevent shrubs from becoming established. County Forester Ethan Belair identified the bushes which are growing up along the fence, as Autumn Olive, an invasive species which will need to be entirely uprooted. Roger will research the cost of acquiring approximately four dozen high bush blueberry plants and soil amendments for the project.

Roger has not heard back from the Student Conservation Association regarding their request for projects. He will put together a more detailed description of the Meadow Park labor requirement and submit it to them for consideration.

Plastics Reduction

Roger explained that we haven't worked with this much yet since we have a lot on our plates right now. It is a matter of educating consumers. He has noticed that some restaurants aren't handing out straws unless customers are asking for them.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at 9pm on a motion from Roger; seconded by all.

The next regular meeting of the Greenfield Conservation Commission will be on May 22, 2019 at 7:30pm