

MILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting of September 8, 2011

Present:

Audrey Fraizer- Chair
Kim Rimalover- Vice Chair
Andy Hughes, Hub Seward, Becky Lorette- Full Members
Chris Costantino, Rodney DellaFelice - Alternate Members
Fred Elkind - Conservation Coordinator

Excused:

Diane Fitzpatrick, Wayne Hardy, Andy Seale

Also Present:

Shawn Morin (15 Boulder Dr.), Stanley Nowicki (560 Mason Rd.)

The public meeting of the Milford Conservation Commission was called to order by Audrey Fraizer at 7:05 PM

Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes of the August 11 meeting were considered. Andy H. moved and Becky L. seconded the motion that minutes of the August 11 meeting be accepted as presented. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Appointments:

1. **Mr. Shawn Morin of 15 Boulder Dr.** presented a plan for keeping fill placed in a buffer. The fill had been placed for the installation, access to, and use around a 10 foot by 14 foot shed. Mr. Morin presented a plan depicting the location of the shed, wetlands, and the adjacent stream. He outlined the history of fill in the vicinity of the shed prior to the current ordinance and the need to keep the fill which had been placed prior to the delivery of the shed. He outlined the concerns of the Conservation Commissioners who viewed the fill, including the need to avoid erosion-related issues regarding the steep slope. Mr. Morin offered a plan that includes a rock-lined interceptor swale that directs runoff away from the slope to a lower area. Mr. Morin had talked with people at the Cooperative Extension who recommended that the swale outlet into a plunge pool to dissipate energy. Mr. Morin's plan also included maintenance.

Chris questioned whether Mr. Morin believed that roof gutters were needed for the shed. He believed that the swale was sufficient but that the gutters had been requested at the site visit. The consensus was that gutters were not required.

Mr. Morin presented other alternatives that he had considered, including using large rocks to stabilize the slope, but the costs were much higher.

The consensus was that the first option should be acceptable. Fred will write a memo to the ZBA presenting the recommendation of the Conservation Commission to keep the fill within the buffer with the condition that the swale, plunge pool, and maintenance as presented in Mr. Morin's first option be included as part of the Special Exception.

Unfinished Business:

1. Hitchiner Field Mowing - The discussion of the mowing of the fields was continued from the last meeting. Fred provided an aerial of the fields and Andy H. provided photos he had taken of the fields. It was agreed that there are three fields in consideration. Paul Amato is interested in mowing the fields if the size of the existing fields is increased to more closely align with the original fields. This would include removing trees and expanding the fields closer to the stone walls that formerly defined the field locations. Paul wanted to remove the stone wall separating the northerly fields. The Commission wants to keep the wall. However, some cutting or trimming of the vegetation growing in and adjacent to the wall would be ok.

Audrey raised a concern regarding the wet portion (corner) of the southerly field. This should be kept natural.

Discussion turned to bluebird habitat. There are bluebird houses that would need to be removed. No one recalls the houses being inhabited for several years. It may be possible to move them closer to protected wet area.

Other discussion included mowing times and patterns aimed at protecting wildlife.

Andy H. suggested another site visit is required. A visit was scheduled for Saturday, September 17 at 10 am.

Kim raised a point about unacceptable uses and trash at Hitchiner. Audrey requested that Fred contact Chief Douglas and request police patrols of the area.

2. Conservation Commission Goals - Audrey requested the date of the worksession to be moved to September 29th at 7pm.

Non-Public Session

1. Possible Land Purchase - The Commission unanimously voted to enter into a non-public session to discuss a possible land purchase. Following discussions, the Commission voted unanimously to leave the non-public session and to seal the minutes of the session. A vote was taken during the session with respect to possible negotiations.

New Business:

1. Milford Middle School Health Fair - 9/20/11 10:30am - 1pm - Chris discussed the health fair at which she and Kim will represent the Commission. They will bring a display presenting the Milford Trails. Book marks or similar will be prepared for the students which will present the trails and website address so that interested students can print maps if they want them.

Interdepartmental Reviews:

1. Osgood Rd. M 51 L 1 - Coburn subdivision. A subdivision creating three lots along Osgood Rd. and a remainder lot is being proposed. The lots have several issues. Two of the proposed lots are steep. The third (southerly lot) incorporates wetland within the lot boundary with a proposed conservation easement around the wetland. The original open space subdivision proposal incorporated the wetlands within the open space; which is the alternative preferred by the Commission. The Commission asked Fred to let the Planning Board know that they believe the lot's proposed configuration is "inconsistent with the intent of the Open Space Ordinance". The Conservation Commission did not favor the conservation easement. Rather, signage delineating the buffer should be required if the lot is created as presented.

2. 770 Elm St. M 12 L 13-1 - The Commission had no concerns with the proposal.

Reports:

1. Melendy Rd. Contract - Fred reported that Fieldstone has completed the field work. The borings to identify subsurface issues will be conducted soon. DPW has had the area marked by DigSafe. Rick Riendeau will observe the borings.

2. Buffer Violation - 159 Purgatory Rd. - Dube's Landscaping placed fill within a wetland buffer at 159 Purgatory Rd. They have agreed to remove the fill and stabilize the area with loam and conservation mix. The area is not to be turned into lawn. Fred reported that the work was to be completed by now but weather and access have been problems. The work is to be completed during the week of September 12.

Discussions:

1. Rotch Interpretive Locations - Yvonne had prepared a draft brochure. Fred reminded the Commissioners that we should work toward finalizing the brochure. The locations Yvonne identified need to be marked in the field. Perhaps information signs can be installed at each location.

2. PSNH Environmental Grants Program - Andy H. asked to put this item on the agenda. Funds may be available for a project like the Rotch interpretive trail signage. However, the application has to be made to PSNH by September 15. Chris will follow-up.

3. 4th Saturday Hike - Andres Sculpture Park - 9-24 - Audrey will coordinate with the Andres people.

4. Speakers Bureau - Chris and Andy S. are to develop topics. Audrey will talk with the person and Normandeau that specializes in bats. The consensus was that bats are an interesting topic, especially in light of the white-nose disease that seems to be taking a toll.

5. New Wetlands Definitions - The state wetlands statutes have been amended with respect to maintenance work on man-made wetlands that have been developed as a result of handling stormwater (conveyance or treatment) or industrial settling ponds. Maintenance of these will no longer require permits. There are some questions regarding how this may be applied to existing wetlands that historically were developed to handle drainage, as well as how this will impact buffers protecting these sites.

6. Scheduling - Fred will send out a sign-up schedule for the Pumpkin Festival. Audrey will be at the SNH Expo (10/20/11) but others will also be needed.

Announcements:

None

Communications:

None

There being no other business to come before the Conservation Commission, Audrey adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Diane Fitzpatrick

Hub Seward

Rod DellaFelice

Chris Costantino

Wayne Hardy

Audrey Fraizer

Becky Lorette

Andy Hughes

Andy Seale

Kim Rimalover