

**CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
December 11, 2013
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall
41 Green Street, Concord, NH**

Attendance

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present at the meeting included: Frederick Chormann; Christopher Kane; Chair Christopher Morgan; Vice Chair James Owers; Tracey Boisvert and Council Representative Jan McClure. Senior Planner Rebecca Hebert and Patricia Murray, Administrative Specialist from the Planning Division also attended the meeting.

Christopher Morgan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00.

1. Minutes

Mr. Chormann moved to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2013 meeting and Mr. Owers seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

2. Wetlands Bureau

- a. Correspondence - none
- b. Other business - none

3. Reports

- a. Trails Committee – Discussion about access to Whispering Heights ensued. Ms. Hebert suggested a public workshop to discuss building trails. She said the Trails Committee would like to invite the neighbors to a workshop to discuss recreational access and use of the land.
- b. Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee – no update
- c. Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee - no update
- d. Forestry – The FORECO forestry report was distributed to Commission members. Ms. Hebert said that the timber sale at the Broad Cove City Forest would be starting soon.
- e. Street Trees – Ms. McClure has information on a grant to plant trees. She and Ms. Hebert will discuss and Ms. Hebert will send an e-mail.

4. City Council/Planning Board

- a. Other Business - Ms. Hebert updated the Commission on the Council's decision to take the Gully Hill conservation easement off the table. Gully Hill Easement Committee's recommendation was not to convey a conservation easement at this time and to maintain the

land in its current agricultural use with the understanding that the City Council would need to discuss the use of the property again if the Bartlett family stops farming the land.

5. Easement Stewardship/Monitoring – Ms. Hebert said that Tanner Starmer has finished his internship and was able to complete all the easement stewardship reports.

6. City Open Space

- a. Request from Five Rivers Conservation Trust to transfer funds from a dedicated Sunnycrest Orchard Fund to their General Stewardship Fund – Ms. Hebert explained that she received a letter from Five Rivers requesting that \$15,000 be transferred to the general Stewardship Fund and \$4,212 be used for signage, trail construction and recreational improvements at the orchard. The fund contains \$19,212 and would be dissolved after the \$4,212 was used. The letter was read and it was decided that Ms. Hebert would contact Five Rivers and the owners of the orchard to discuss what amenities might be needed at the orchard before recommending that the money be transferred to the general Stewardship Fund.
- b. Whispering Heights proposed conservation restrictions – Mr. Morgan said that the City Council authorized the acceptance of the \$80,626 mitigation payment to be used toward the Whispering Heights purchase and also authorized the conveyance of the conservation restrictions. Ms. Hebert said that she was discussing with NHDES the language for the conservation restrictions. Ms. Hebert will distribute the draft restrictions prior to the next meeting for review and comment.
- c. Amendment to Unitil conservation easement – Ms. Boisvert moved to enter into a nonpublic session for the discussion of real estate transactions accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(d). Mr. Chormann seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The Commission entered into non-public session.

Following the discussion, the Commission moved to exit nonpublic session and seal the minutes. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

- d. Other business – Ms. Hebert reported on a timber sale at Carter Hill Orchard. She said the owner was in the process of removing ash trees to make room for sugar maples. A neighbor was concerned with erosion from skid track and Five Rivers is scheduling a meeting to discuss the issue with the abutter.

7. Other Business – Ms. Boisvert moved to enter into a nonpublic session for the discussion of possible land acquisitions in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(d). Mr. Chormann seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The Commission entered into non-public session.

Following the discussion, the Commission moved to exit nonpublic session and seal the minutes. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:
Rebecca Hebert, Senior Planner