

**CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2014
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall
41 Green Street, Concord, NH**

Attendance

Christopher Morgan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

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

1. Minutes

Mr. Chormann moved to accept the minutes, with the suggested changes, of the January 8, 2014 meeting and Ms. Boisvert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

2. Wetlands Bureau

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

3. Reports

- a. Trails Committee – Ms. Hebert reported that the Moonlit walk at Carter Hill was well attended.
- b. Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee – Mr. Chormann informed the Committee that the Gimme Green Film Screening and Experts Panel will be presented at St. Paul’s School on February 20 at 7pm. This is a humorous look at residential lawn care. The event is free. Registration is available on-line.

Ms. Hebert distributed a copy of the annual report. She also distributed information on Bug Nights. Mr. Chormann explained that Bug Nights is a weekly event held mostly every Wednesday at which volunteers work to identify aquatic insects found on the Merrimack River.

Mr. Chormann announced that Madeleine Mineau had her baby. Both mother and baby are well.

- c. Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee - no update
- d. Forestry – none
- e. Street Trees – Mr. Chormann gave an update. The sub-committee met with Chip Chesley and Phil Bilodeau of General Services. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20. A discussion ensued about the possibility of conducting an updated tree inventory by species.

The existing inventory is very good and includes information of core streets but it has not been updated in approximately 10 years. Ms. Hebert stated that an intern did another inventory in 2007 but the work was not digitized. She will look into that.

4. City Council/Planning Board

- a. **Budget** - Ms. Hebert distributed the proposed budget for FY 2015 and reviewed each item within the proposed budget. Discussion ensued about timber harvests and whether or not proceeds could be used to purchase and plant trees within the urban areas of the city. Ms. Hebert will look into this. Ms. Hebert will also look into adding money for plowing the trailheads at Swope Park, Winant Park and the Oak Hill Conservation Area.

5. Easement Stewardship/Monitoring – Ms. Hebert distributed several monitoring reports from Five Rivers including reports for Maplewood Farm, Diamond Hill, Triacca property and the Hardy property off of Elm Street. She also distributed the monitoring report for Rossview Farm.

6. City Open Space

- a. Request to hold a trail running race at Winant Park as a fund raising event for the Emerson School for Preschoolers – Ms. Hebert informed the Committee that Mr. Lavers requested to hold a trail run similar to the one held last year but would like to expand the distance by 8 to 10 miles. He is willing to come in and present to the Committee. Mr. Morgan stated that there was no need for him to come in. The Committee agreed that they had no issues with the trail run.
- b. Request to utilize trails at Merrill Park as part of a road race in East Concord as a fund raising event for the East Concord Cooperative Preschool — Ms. Hebert informed the Committee that this event would like to use the trails at Merrill Park as part of the road race. The Committee agreed that they had no issues with the use of the trails as part of the course.
- c. Whispering Heights proposed conservation restrictions – Ms. Hebert spoke about a revision which she worked on with Ms. Pacik. She will distribute a digital copy to the Committee members for their review and redlining. Mr. Morgan would like members to be prepared to vote on the final document at the next meeting.

Two Concord residents were present and suggested that the Whispering Heights property be renamed Broken Ground Conservation Area. They feel the name is tacky and is associated with the failed development. The Committee agreed and informed the residents that they use the name Whispering Heights to differentiate between land that is owned by the City and other privately owned land within Broken Ground. Mr. Morgan informed them that a public workshop is being considered within the next few months to discuss public access and use of city-owned land at Broken Ground.

- d. Gully Hill/West Portsmouth Street agricultural leases – Ms. Hebert discussed her conversation with Alan Bartlett and Keith Richard regarding a land swap between the agricultural land leased at Gully Hill and the land leased at West Portsmouth Street. She explained that provisions were provided for the swap of land within both of the lease

agreements to allow Bartlett Farm to consolidate their farming at the West Portsmouth Street area as long as both of the tenants agreed with the land swap. Ms. Hebert said both parties have agreed to the swap. Conversation ensued regarding lease renewals and the group did not object to swapping of land.

e. Other Business – none.

7. Other Business – A skating area has been cleared at Morono Park and there was evidence of four wheelers driving down to the oxbow pond. Ms. Hebert will follow up on this and said that a letter may need to be sent to the property owner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:
Patricia Murray, *Secretary Pro-tem*