

**CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
March 13, 2013  
Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall  
41 Green Street, Concord, NH**

**Attendance:**

Members present at the meeting included: Jim Owers; Christopher Morgan; Tracey Boisvert; Pam Hunt; Kris Tardiff; Rick Chormann; Karen Rose; Gloria McPherson, City Planner and Rebecca Hebert, Senior Planner, attended the meeting.

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

**1. Organization:** C. Morgan stepped down as Chair, and handed the meeting to Vice Chair J. Owers to accept nominations for Chair. J. Owers opened the floor to accept nominations. K. Tardiff nominated C. Morgan as Chair and K. Rose seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and J. Owers closed the floor and requested a vote. The group voted unanimously for C. Morgan to be Chair of the Conservation Commission. J. Owers turned the meeting back over to the C. Morgan.

C. Morgan opened the floor to accept nominations for Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission. K. Tardiff nominated J. Owers to be Vice Chair. R. Chormann seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and C. Morgan closed the floor and requested a vote. The group voted unanimously for J. Owers to be Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission.

C. Morgan opened the floor to accept nominations for secretary. R. Chormann nominated C. Kane to be secretary. J. Owers seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and C. Morgan closed the floor and requested a vote. The group voted unanimously for C. Kane to be Secretary of the Conservation Commission.

**2. Minutes:**

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the February 13, 2013, meeting and the minutes were unanimously accepted.

**3. Wetlands Bureau:**

R. Hebert said that there were no new wetlands applications to review this month.

**4. City Council/Planning Board Action:**

a) Budget – R. Hebert updated the group on the proposed budget. She said that the budget has been reviewed by the Assistant City Managers and will be reviewed by the City Manager next week. The Program Change Requests (PCR's) include \$4,000 for the easement stewardship intern and \$40,000 from the Forestry Trust for the open space and outdoor recreation plan. K. Rose asked if there was money in the budget for professional development or training for Commissioners. R. Hebert said that

there is money in the budget for Commissioners to attend conferences. The group discussed the upcoming Saving Special Places Conference. R. Hebert said that members who were interested in attending the event should send her email. R. Chormann also mentioned the upcoming NHDES Watershed Conference and said that he noticed someone from Concord was presenting a case study on the Penacook Lake watershed. R. Hebert said that the Supervisor of the Water Treatment Plant has prepared a presentation about the management of the watershed. The Commission asked staff to inquire if would attend a Commission meeting to talk about the Penacook Lake watershed.

- b) City Council Referral Regarding Northern Pass's use of PSNH right of way through McKenna's Purchase – J. Owers recused himself. C. Morgan reviewed the memo he prepared regarding Northern Pass. He explained that he has researched the issue and noticed that communities in southern New Hampshire have not does much as the towns in northern New Hampshire. Deerfield did vote at town meeting to bury the line and also voted against the project. K. Rose asked if Concord has reviewed the utility easements through city-owned land. The Commission agreed that it would be good to have the Legal Department review the PSNH rights of way and easements. C. Morgan said he would add this recommendation to the memo. R. Hebert suggested formatting the report on the City's letterhead and would email an example. K. Rose also suggested adding the language that the Commission opposes Northern Pass "as proposed." K. Tardiff moved to submit C. Morgan's memo in report format, with the recommendations discussed tonight, to the City Council. R. Chormann seconded the motion. J. Owers abstained.
- c) J. McClure reported that the City Council has appointed the committee to review the proposed Forest Society easement on the Gully Hill agricultural land. The Committee includes Councilor Bouchard, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor St. Hilaire and herself. Councilor Bouchard will Chair the committee. She said that staff and a Commission representative may be asked to attend the first meeting to provide background information on the project.

## 5. Open Space:

R. Hebert said that a public hearing for the acquisition of the Whispering Heights property has been advertised for Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the second floor conference room.

K. Tardiff moved to enter into a nonpublic session for the discussion of possible land acquisitions in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(d). T. Boisvert seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

K. Tardiff moved to set the public hearing for the acquisition of the Whispering Heights property for Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the second floor conference room. Motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

J. McClure moved to authorize the appraisal of the Haller property including parcels 103/1/33 and 103/1/22. Staff will look into possible grant programs.

**6. Easement Stewardship/Monitoring:**

R. Hebert explained that conservation easement violation has been discovered on properties at 33 & 39 Locke Road. The City holds a small conservation easement that runs parallel to the rear lot line of the properties at 27, 33 and 39 Locke Road. The easement is adjacent to city-owned land. A logger has cleared the property at 39 Locke Road and removed some trees at 33 Locke Road to create a log yard. The logging activity on both 33 and 39 Locke Road appear to have violated the terms of the conservation easement. The easement specifically restricts forestry activities and cutting of trees and vegetation. She also said that Five Rivers Conservation Trust holds an executory interest in the easement. The group discussed the violation and agreed to have staff work with the Legal Department to send a letter to the land owners. R. Hebert also said that the pool at the Millstream property has been removed. Planning Staff will follow up with the landowner this spring to make sure the site is restored and that there is no erosion into the wetland.

**7. Other Business:**

R. Chormann said that Madeleine Minau attended the last Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee. He also said that his membership expired 1 ½ years ago and he will forward a request for his re-nomination to the City Council.

The group also noted that Muriel Lejoy resigned from the Contocook North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:  
Rebecca Hebert, Senior Planner  
Secretary pro-tem