

MINUTES OF MEETING
February 1, 2012
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Approved at the February 15, 2012

PRESENT- Lisa Morin, Dean Anson, Debra Williams, Hillary May, Jane Connelly, and Mike Foote

ABSENT- Marnie Schulz

OTHERS PRESENT Kevin Dunleavy, Park Recreation Department Karen Barker, Back to Farming Coalition, Rick Lewis, Resident, Katie?, ?, and Scott McPhie, Staff.

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by H. May at 6:00 PM

I. Old Business:

a. Review minutes from the January 4, 2011 meeting.

H. May made a motion to approve the minutes of January 4, 2012 with changes. The motion was seconded by D. Williams. The motion passed 6-0.

b. Plans for the next compost promotional event

Call the Laconia Public Works Department to purchase your home compost bin for only \$52.00. The regular price is \$100.00.

II. New Business:

a. Back to Farming discussion. -the target areas are vacant and overgrown inner city lots in highly visible underserved inner city neighborhoods. Grant opportunities and public private partnership will be discussed targeting Laconia City Council priority goals 1, 2 & 3.

Karen Barker representing the Back to Farming Coalition began the discussion listing various partners in the Healthy Eating Active Living Program. The partners include the Belknap County Conservation District Americore Vista volunteers, the Mentors program at the Laconia Middle School, Wow trail supporters, the Laconia Park Recreation Department and the Laconia Conservation Commission Two locations near the Scott and Williams building were favored by many of the participating organizations. K. Barker reminded everyone that a parcel off Woodland Avenue was high on the selection list but there should be second and third choices that could become future grant candidates. The Laconia City Councils goal to

improve inner city neighborhood should be high on the priority list. L. Morin added she may be able to pursue a grant of up to \$4,100 dollars to assist with the Scott Williams area parcels. The funds for that grant need to be awarded and spent by December 2012.

b. Upcoming presentation of the local shoreland ordinance amendments at the Tuesday February 7, 2012 Planning Board Meeting

Dean Anson will present the changes at the upcoming Planning Board meeting. Con Com members are encouraged to attend. It is important to correct the deficiencies created by the July 1, 2011 State legislative changes creating a State Water Quality Protection Ordinance to replace the Shoreland Protection Act.

c. Dean Anson, Additional goals for 2012

The Con Com discussed various additional goals that D. Anson proposed including his recommendation for team leaders:

- 1. Conservation Easement around Pickerel Pond- Mike Foote**
- 2. Develop a better liaison relationship with the Planning Board-Dean Anson**
- 3. Conduct a “Bio- Blitz” at Prescott Farm and the Harrington easement-Dean Anson & Hillary May**
- 4. Make Conservation Activities more visible by convincing citizens to recycle and compost as a way to reduce taxes and preserve resources- ALL**
- 5. Get a Student Representative on the Con Comm-Deb.and Jane**
- 6. Get a column in the Laconia Sun- Dean Anson**
- 7. Coordinate dissemination of Information with other Conservation oriented organizations- Lisa Morin**

S. McPhie added the con com completed the compost information event on January 18, 2012, will conduct water testing volunteer recruitment event in March, and play the lead role in the second annual invasive species educational event to complement the main event the Waste Management Wildlife enhancement project.

Liaison & Sub-Committee Reports:

-Permit Sub-Committee – Questions and answers

D. Anson and S. McPhie reviewed additional Dredge and Fill applications. The 138 Appleton Street proposal will be presented at the next con com meeting scheduled for February 15, 2012.

III. Other Business:

- Subdivision/ Site Plan update

S. McPhie briefed the Con Com on the State Administrative Services Department proposed lot line adjustment and subdivision of the former Laconia State School Parcel. The 911 facility parcel will remain in State ownership and will require the acquisition of additional frontage along State Hwy 106 attempting to take a portion of Ahern State Park. The new back boundary line will be drawn approximately 900 to 1,300 feet back from route 106 which will create a new 12-acre parcel containing some existing State buildings. The remaining property will create a saleable 199 acre lot including the remaining State buildings and the leased Muskrats overflow parking lot. The 199-acre parcel will be made available to the city of Laconia first, Belknap County Second, and the general Public Third. S. McPhie questioned if an easement would be created including Ahern Park Road and adjacent wetlands therefore protecting Public Access to Lake Winnisquam as this is the only public access point remaining on the east side of Lake Winnisquam. The Representatives from the State assured the Con Com that Ahern State Park was very well protected with easements and there were no plans to disturb this parcel of Open Space. The question then remained if Ahern cannot be disturbed how portions of the park can be acquired to adjust a lot line. The project proposal is attempting to move forward slowly.

- Commissioners Comments

None

- Staff Comments

None

IV. Adjournment:

H. May made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by J. Connelly. The motion passed 5-0-0.