

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
February 25, 2014
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Approved at the March 19, 2014 meeting

PRESENT- Dean Anson, Lisa Morin, Debra Williams Marnie Schulz, and Mike Foote

ABSENT: Hillary May

I. Call To Order :

II. New Business:

- a. Non-Public Session concerning land acquisition per RSA: 91: A: II (d). A roll call vote is required to enter non-public session.

D. Anson made a motion to go into a Non-Public Session concerning land acquisition per RSA: 91: A: II (d). A roll call vote was occurred with Dean Anson, Lisa Morin, Debra Williams, Marnie Schulz, and Mike Foote all voting in the affirmative to enter Non-public session.

- b. Current use fund update

D. Anson made a motion to go into a Non-Public Session concerning land acquisition per RSA: 91: A: II (d). A roll call vote was occurred with Dean Anson, Lisa Morin, Debra Williams, Marnie Schulz, and Mike Foote all voting in the affirmative to enter Non-public session.

D. Anson made a motion to leave Non-Public Session concerning land acquisition per RSA: 91: A: II (d). A roll call vote was occurred with Dean Anson, Lisa Morin, Debra Williams, Marnie Schulz, and Mike Foote all voting in the affirmative to enter Non-public session.

D. Anson, Conservation Chair, S. McPhie Conservation Technician and S. Saunders, Planning Director met with D. Woodman, Finance Director for the City of Laconia. A determination was made that the Con Coms offer to commit funds to offset the purchase price for acquisition of the open space at the State School property is not on record.

S. Myers, City Manager, met with the group next to determine if there were any City Manager or Council records committing a portion of the Con Com's Current use funds toward the purchase of open space lands on the State School property. No records were located. So the only commitment for funding was made in response to a former city managers request to do so. The Con Com could exercise their right to use the currently partially committed fund to support other ongoing projects. The only stipulation the City Manager's office would put on the request is in the event the State School property again becomes available the Con Com once again should support the project as committed to in the past.

The Laconia Conservation Commission felt tying up such a large portion of their current use funds since 2011 prevents them from moving forward with the acquisition of other conservation easements. There are property owners that want to move forward with conserving their lands and we cannot help them. The current use account was put in place to assist such owners to do so.

The following portions of the 4/12/2011 non-public minutes were made public and are listed for the record below. Portions of the minutes were redacted to protect any future negotiations.

Dean Anson discussed the option of the Laconia Conservation Commission (LCC) offering ^_□□□□□□ to help pay for acquisition of portions of land which is part of the State School property.

All were interested in purchasing the property but wanted to donate ^_□□□□□□ to the cause and hang onto ^□□□□□□ for any emergency open space contingency that may occur looking forward to future current use funds made available after other open space is developed.

Discussion went back and forth resulting in a motion by M. Schulz, seconded by D. Williams to allow the City Council, to spend Up to ^_□□□□□□□□ from the current use Conservation account to leverage the purchase of this valuable piece of property.

The motion passed 4-0-0 in favor of making ^_□□□□□□ available for purchase of the property when the following above questions are answered and condition is met.

c. Meeting etiquette updates

S. McPhie reminded everyone we must all be courteous to our applicants. S. Saunders said this is not directed at the Con Com but one of the the Laconia Commissions got a little too critical of an applicant this past Month. Please keep your comments in perspective.

d. Open suggestions for zoning language improvements in 2014

List any conservation related zoning changes you feel will benefit the City of Laconia. Be prepared to talk about them in the future. There is no deadline yet but it is best to have the changes written down ahead of time. M. Foote serves on the Zoning Board Task Force and agreed to communicate them to the Zoning Board Task Force.

III. Old Business:

a. Black Brook RFQ Update-

L. Morin added D. Anson, Chair, should contact Steve Landry, NHDES, to determine what additional funds are available.

The good news is DuBois and King agreed to reduce the cost for completing the Geomorphological study and Watershed analysis. The price will be reduced from

\$49,000.00 to \$35,000.00. Du-Bois and King agreed this price drop would not compromise the quality of their product. The price reduction was achieved by eliminating the culvert study and combining the Geomorphological study with the Watershed Management plan. The dollar amount now required of the Council would be only \$15,000.

The bad news is the Council already has close to a half million in additional budget requests for fiscal year 2013-2014.

D. Anson explained the Con Com has \$20,000.00 available for the study and he discussed the possibility of phasing the project. DuBois and King have agreed to do so. They will also assist the Con Com with locating grant funding to continue to move forward with the project.

H. May made a motion to authorize DuBois and King to begin phase 1 of the Black Brook work with the current funds we have available. L. Morin seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

L. Morin made a motion to authorize D. Anson to talk to the Town of Gilford Conservation Commission to propose a warrant article to help fund the Black Brook study. D. Williams seconded the motion. S. McPhie said the city of Laconia may be more likely to contribute funds if the Town of Gilford made a financial commitment to the project. The motion passed 5-0-0.

- b. Current and future Brownfield Projects in Laconia

Tabled until the next meeting.

IV. Liaison & Sub-Committee Reports:

-Permit Sub-Committee

All permits have been addressed and accounted for.

V. Other Business:

- Subdivision/ Site Plan update
 Tabled until the next meeting
- Commissioners Comments
 None
- Staff Comments
 None

VI. Adjournment:

M. Foote made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by D. Williams. The motion passed 5-0-0.