

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
June 18, 2014
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Approved at the October 1, 2014 meeting

PRESENT- Dean Anson, Hillary May, Lisa Morin, and Deb. Williams

ABSENT- Mike Foote and Marnie Schulz

I. Call To Order

Review of the Minutes of Wednesday April 16, 2014

D. Williams made the motion to approve the minutes as written. The Motion was seconded by L. Morin. The motion passed 4-0.

II. New Business:

- a. Tardif and Perley Oak City Summer Invasive species cleanup project

The invasive species clean-up day will be held at the Perley Oak and Tardiff Property on Wednesday July 16, 2014 from 3-6 PM. D. Williams volunteered her students to assist with the project. The rain date will be July 23, 2014. We are hoping for a big publicity push. Publicity will help educate the public about proper removal and disposal of invasive species.

- b. Feedback on the Invasive species removal ordinance

The city ordinance requires all invasive species be properly removed and disposed of within 250-feet of the Shoreland. Construction projects are only responsible for the areas they disturb not the entire parcel. The city also reminds construction projects outside the Shoreland buffer to follow best management practices to remove invasive plants. Adding proper invasive species maintenance guidelines to condominium bylaws should have a positive impact on long term invasive eradication.

Internal changes have been implemented to accept invasive plants at the Hilliard Road Brush Dump. Permission to dispose of invasive plants has also been granted by Waste Management at the transfer station facility. Local landscaping companies are training their employees to properly remove and dispose of invasive plants.

The first major application of the invasive species ordinance applied to the Wal-Mart expansion project. All invasive plants were removed after I made additional inquiries with Hutter Construction the site contractor. Hutter was very accommodating and professional to work with. Unfortunately other companies are more reluctant to follow Best management practices. It appears the Landscape Company representing the plaza cut down the invasive species around the pond but did not permanently remove them. It will be important for the Con Com to hand out BMP manuals provided by the State. This is an example why we need to have a list of approved Invasive removal contractors and spell out the

steps for removal. If we just have people removing the surface foliage we are not accomplishing the goals of invasive species removal.

On a positive note we are starting to see contractors controlling knotweed with black tarp within the 250-foot shoreline area. Doing so avoids the need to use round-up. Only a highly diluted pesticide mixture applied by a licensed applicator can be used under the agricultural exception clause of the ordinance. If other non-toxic controls are implemented first it would be beneficial to the environment to do so.

- c. Vote to form Black Brook or General Brook Subcommittee

L. Morin made a motion to form the Laconia Conservation Commission Brook improvement subcommittee. The motion was seconded by D. Williams. The motion passed 4-0.

III. Old Business:

- a. Black Brook Geomorphological Study update

The project is finally underway. We hope to walk the Brook in early August.

- b. Jewett Brook Update

L. Morin summarized the successful Laconia High School Science class meeting where Jewett Brook water testing has been ongoing for quite some time. L. Morin secured funding through Belknap County Conservation District for the purchase of improved water testing equipment to be awarded to the High Science students.

L. Morin provided the survey and outreach work for Jewett Brook. Unfortunately the City is struggling to secure an easement to make the improvement project a reality. The Con Com should continue to work with Belknap County to place "Do not feed the fowl signs along Jewett Brook".

IV. Liaison & Sub-Committee Reports:

- Permit Sub-Committee review and updates

Many dock replacement "in kind" permits are underway.

V. Other Business:

- Subdivision/ Site Plan update

The Akwa Vista duplex proposal will be coming in soon.

- Commissioners Comments

D. Anson updated all on MTBE Brownfield cleanup funds available to Laconia. Credere Associates will be in charge of implementing the program. He suggested we should invite New Hampshire DES to conduct a Soak up the Rain New Hampshire lecture. L. Morin is working on a similar lecture for Gilford.

- Staff Comments

None

VI. Adjournment:

H. May made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by D. Williams. The motion passed 4-0-0.