

Town of Plaistow

Town Hall
145 Main Street
Plaistow, NH 03865



Conservation Commission

Chair B. Jill Senter

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Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2019

7:00 PM

Second Floor, Town Hall

1. Meeting opening: At 7:08 PM by Jill Senter
2. Roll call: Present: Tim Moore, Jill Senter, Dave Averill, Olaf Westphalen, Charles Blinn, John Blinn (Selectmen's Representative)

3. Approval of June 20, 2019 minutes: Postponed to next meeting.

4. Brighton Drive Subdivision.

The Brighton Drive subdivision is a proposed 45-acre, 14-lot subdivision and lot consolidation plan with access to North Ave.

Presented by Tim Lavelle of James M. Lavelle Associates & Bruce Gilday.

The plan as presented shows requires a dredge and fill permit for 3 wetlands crossings. The first is at the intersection of North Ave and the new subdivision road - Abbey Road. This crossing will be accomplished by the installation of an open-bottom culvert and will require a Conditional Use Permit. The other two proposed crossings were shown at common driveways. These crossings totaled 6350 square feet of wetlands impact. Impact areas 2 & 3 (common driveway) may be off the table by doing redesign. The redesign would lessen the required 110,000 square feet of contiguous upland area as required in the LDR zoning district. This would require a variance, It was the consensus of the Conservation Commission that the preference would be eliminating the two common driveway wetlands crossings and support the variance for the smaller uplands areas.

The Alteration of Terrain (AOT) permit has been submitted and to date no vernal pools or threatened species have been found. Also there are no hits in the database regarding archeological items of interest.

In 2016, some initial flagging of wetlands occurred. The Department of Environmental Services requires wetlands to be reflagged after 3-years. The wetlands were reflagged in November, 2018.

A motion to support the smaller contiguous lot sizing and to send a letter of support to the ZBA was made by Olaf Westphalen and seconded by Charles Blinn. There was no discussion on the motion, it passed unanimously 5-0-0.

A motion was made by Tim Moore to support the Conditional Use Permit for the Abbey Road wetlands crossing on the condition that the wetlands impact will not exceed 2150 square feet and to write a letter of support to the Planning Board. Olaf Westphalen made the second. There was no discussion of motion and the motion passed with a vote: 4-0-1 Dave Averill abstained.

5. Tim Moore presented a rewritten Conservation Commission Rules of Procedure. There were a few minor wordsmithing changes and a section regarding the 36-A Conservation funds that needed to be added. A final draft will be ready for the August 1, 2019 meeting.

6. Old Business

- Town Forest Discussion
 - Easement encroachments – When the Southeast Land Trust performed their annual easement inspection, it was noted that there had been a couple of minor encroachments. Jill Senter worked with Mike Dorman, the Code Enforcement Officer to resolve these issues. They have all been resolved.
 - SELT site walk – a letter from Matt Tarr has been received and it indicates that the number of bike trails may be impacting wildlife habitat. He will work with Conservation Commission regarding trail planning and its coexistence with wildlife habitats. Jill Senter will contact Danielle of SELT and ask how she would like to proceed to balance the needs of all Town Forest users and wildlife habitats.
 - Trail status
 - 3-town trail map – Olaf to get status. Trail blazes were designed to be compatible with blazes from all three towns.
 - Wet spots – Trail closed signs were installed in the early spring so that users would not cause any damage to the trails and/or wetlands. The trails have since dried up and the signs removed.

6. New Business

- Next meeting: August 1, 2019

7. Communications

- Review any new mail in mail folder – SELT/UNH letter regarding the Town Forest trails. (See above discussion).
- No other mail in the folder.

8. Meeting adjournment: At 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy E. Moore
Secretary, Plaistow Conservation Commission

DRAFT