

Town of Plaistow

Town Hall
145 Main Street
Plaistow, NH 03865



Conservation Commission

Chair B. Jill Senter

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Meeting Minutes

August 06, 2020

7:00 PM

Second Floor, Town Hall

1. Meeting opening: At 7:01 PM by Jill Senter
2. Roll call: Present: Jill Senter, Tim Moore, Olaf Westphalen, David Averill
Excused: Charles Blinn, John Blinn (Selectmen's Representative)
3. Review/approval of minutes - postponed
4. Workshops/discussion topics/site plan reviews
 - A. Mike Malynowski, Major & Allen Associates, presented a second amended site plan for 88 Plaistow Rd. The original plan showed a bus garage and minor maintenance facility in the rear of the lot with retail space in the front of the lot. It required a substantial wetlands disturbance for which the developer obtained a variance.

The first amended plan showed public storage buildings in the rear of the lot and retail space in the front of the lot. This plan had a reduced impact on the wetlands disturbance and had a better drainage plan with only treated runoff being directed towards the wetlands. The second amended plan shows public storage units in both the front and rear of the lot. The second amended plan also has a small reduced impact on the wetlands.

The Conservation Commission was opposed to the original plan but was OK with the first amended plan and is OK with the second amended plan. Mr. Malynowski asked the Conservation Commission would send a letter to the Planning Board stating its support for the second amended plan. Olaf Westphalen made a motion that the Conservation Commission should send a letter of support for the second amended site plan. Jill Senter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, the motion was approved by a 3-0-1 vote. David Averill abstained.

5. Old Business

- A. Jill Senter provided an update regarding the plan to do some logging as described in the approved Forest Management Plan. Charles Marino, a forester contracted to prepare the Management Plan and execute the first logging phase has been in contact with Jill and has started marking trees that are to be cut in the southern portion of the forest. The staging area will be close to the Carlton Path entrance to the forest. Some of Carlton Path need to be widened in order to support the logging trucks that must carry the timber from the southern staging area to a suitable market.

There was some discussion about how the logging activity might interfere with the use of the trails. The general consensus from previous discussions was that the logging should be done in the most efficient manner and if any trails are disturbed, they can be repaired after the logging is completed. Dave Averill suggested that we contact the Timberlane Cross-country teams and let them know about the logging when it occurs. The goal would be to keep the disturbance of the trail(s) they use to a minimum.

- B. Jill Senter also reported that she had been in contact with Mark West about the prime wetland investigation. He reported he had mapped about half of the wetland areas but was running into some difficulties because beaver dams have backed up water and increased the size of many wetlands. He is still on track to complete the project in the fall so that the requisite public hearings and 2021 Town Meeting warrants can be prepared.
- C. The Conservation Commission and Brent Ebner agreed on a modified trail plan. Brent will work to mark up the existing plan with the changes (trail closures and relocations) that were agreed to. That modified plan will then be sent to Southeast Land Trust (SELT) for their approval. SELT is the owner of the conservation easement and during their last annual inspection of the easement felt there were too many trails constructed and too many trails causing some wetland disturbances and several more causing erosion problems. The modified trail plan addresses all of those findings.

6. New Business

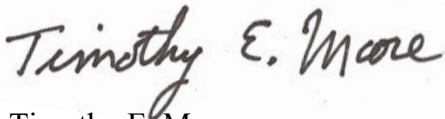
- A. Tim Moore recommended that we should update our Wetlands Ordinance to be in sync with the new prime wetland provisions and to potentially update our Aquifer Protection Ordinance to reflect the current conditions. The Rockingham Planning Commission can do those kind of ordinance updates; Tim will check to see if they would be interested in doing that work. The funds in our existing 36-A Conservation Fund would be eligible to finance the ordinance update work.
- B. Next meeting date – September 03, 2020

7. Communications

- A. Review information in the Conservation Commission mail folder – no new material

8. Meeting adjournment: At 7:50 PM by Jill Senter

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy E. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'M'.

Timothy E. Moore
Secretary, Plaistow Conservation Commission