

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
LINCOLN CENTER DIRECTOR'S ROOM
APRIL 16, 2018**

draft

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Clancy (Chair), Frank Belknap, Laura Edwards, Helen Robbins, Jon Mercier, and Bonnie Potocki

ALSO PRESENT: David Laiuppa, Environmental Planner/Wetlands Agent
Amberlee Clark, Bryon Billings, Ed Smith, Warren Bacchus, and
Nate Jackson

Mr. Clancy convened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Approval of Minutes

The March 19, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

Presentation / Discussion

Mr. Bacchus gave a poster presentation on a research project that he has been working on, with the assistance of Mr. Smith, in Laurel Marsh. Mr. Bacchus explained that he has been conducting bio-diversity surveys with a focus on insect life in the vicinity of the Marsh. He plans to continue this work and is hopeful that his research can be utilized in a way that will enhance people's experience in the Marsh while educating visitors about the wide range of plants and animals that can be found within one of the Town's unique habitats.

All members of the Conservation Commission were very interested in Mr. Bacchus' work and thought that it would be nice if a copy of his poster could be displayed either at one of the libraries in town or at the entrance to the park.

Application Presentations

There were no new application presentations.

Wetlands Permit Status

- Mr. Laiuppa told the Commission that the Town Engineering Department's submittal for the reconstruction of portions of Hillstown Road has been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. This application was discussed, in detail, at the previous Conservation Commission meeting. Mr. Laiuppa let the Commission know that their comments had been entered into the hearing and that they had been considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission during deliberation. As a result of the input of the Conservation Commission and the Land Trust the Engineering Department altered the planned outfall near Buckland Pond to be further removed from the edge of the open water body.

- Mr. Laiuppa briefly discussed the application of the Woodbridge Mill conversion project. He explained that the wetland permit had been approved and that the only outstanding items had to do with the color and material that would be used on the renovated façade of the complex.

Communications

- Mr. Laiuppa told the Commission that there had been a wetland violation at 40 Fir Grove Road. He said that the homeowner had begun to clear her lot, which includes wetlands and a watercourse, and did not know that she needed a permit to do the work. He explained that the homeowner was ordered to stop all activities, stabilize the site, and apply for a permit. The homeowner has been compliant in all requests and is working closely with Mr. Laiuppa to satisfy the needs of a wetland permit and to protect the resources.
- Mr. Laiuppa said that he was informed by Mr. Mercier that there had been tree removal and grubbing at the old Beacon Light property, now owned by U-Haul. Mr. Laiuppa investigated the site and confirmed that some of the activity had taken place with regulated floodplains and the Upland Review area. He is in the process of reaching out to the land owner to discuss this activity.
 - Mr. Belknap said that he didn't understand why there would be any issues with this work because they were doing a good job.
 - Mr. Laiuppa explained that, while the contractor may be doing a good job and the work may ultimately be allowable, it is not legal to do work within a regulated area without permission.
- Mr. Laiuppa let the Commission know that he has been in communication with the Champagne Motor Group about removing a broken pipe and headwall from the Hockanum River. He said that the owner let him know that he would remove the debris when the water level of the river went down.

Reports

- Hockanum River Linear Park Committee (HRLPC)
 - Mr. Mercier said that the annual race was held and that he was disappointed that only 39 boats showed up. He thought that there was a need to better promote the race in the future.
- Case Mountain Recreation Area
 - Mr. Clancy said that some members of the New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) are interested in helping with trail maintenance. He is working on coordinating efforts with the group.
 - Mr. Belknap said that the Land Trust recently hosted a hike on Case Mountain.

- Mr. Belknap mentioned that he had recently spoken with a property owner with land adjacent to Case Mountain and they are concerned about a tree that could fall on their property.
 - Mr. Laiuppa said that if they think that it is a safety concern they could reach out to the town.
- Ms. Potocki said that it would be nice if there was a way to get more young people involved with helping out with blazing the trails.
 - Ms. Clark thought this was a good idea and thought that maybe this could be part of the volunteer hours that is required by some schools.
 - Mr. Belknap said that he thought working with youth volunteers was a waste of time because it takes too long to teach them how to do the work. He said that, in the time that it takes to teach a group of young people to do something he could have finished the task.
- Mr. Laiuppa said that the Town had been clearing the summit and that the work may be done by now.
- Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT)
 - Mrs. Robbins said that the Land Trust will be holding its annual dinner on May 14th.
 - Mrs. Robbins gave an update on the Lombardo Farm application. She said that the Land Trust had a 3rd appraisal of the land done because the first two had such a large disparity.
 - Mrs. Robbins said that some of the members of the Land Trust had recently attended the State Land Trust meeting.
- Rail Trails and Greenways
 - Nothing to report.
- Manchester Matters Bulletin
 - Nothing to report.
- Land Acquisition Committee
 - Mr. Clancy said that, at the most recent meeting, the Land Acquisition Committee considered 3 locations in town that had recently been offered to the Town for purchase. He said that, of the three, the only one of interest was a two parcel consideration on Gardner Road, near Case Mountain. He said that the Committee was more interested in one property over the other but would also like to keep an eye on the second parcel.

Old Business

- Ms. Potocki asked if there were any updates on the status of the E&S controls at either Center Springs Park or Verplank School.
 - Mr. Laiuppa said that he has visited the sites and that there did not seem to be any visible improvements to the erosion and sedimentation controls at either site.
 - Ms. Potocki said that she would be making a formal request of the Town for copies of the construction inspection reports.
 - Mr. Laiuppa asked that she send them in an email so that he could forward them on to the appropriate staff.

New Business

- Ms. Edwards said that the motions to approve funding for the Army Navy Club and the Historical Society Museum had been tabled by the Board of Directors.
- Ms. Edwards discussed the newly formed Manchester Sustainability Task Force. She said that she is a member of the Task Force and she thinks that the Environmental Stewardship Group and the Resiliency Group may be of interest to the Conservation Commission.
 - Mr. Clancy suggested that Task Force should be added to future agendas so that the Commission could be kept up to date with any developments as they occur.
- Mr. Belknap mentioned a recent article that he saw that talked about trees dying in towns and cities but then said that there's probably nothing that we can do about it.
 - Ms. Edwards said that the Commission should revisit the Tree City USA application that had been discussed several years ago. She said that she would like to invite the Town Tree Warden to discuss the status of the application and the possibility of having Manchester try to achieve the status of a "Tree City".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.