

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
LINCOLN PLANNING DEPARTMENT
MARCH 19, 2018**

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, and Bill O'Neill

Mr. Clancy convened the meeting at 6:59 PM

Approval of Minutes

The February 19, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

Presentation / Discussion

Mr. O'Neill discussed the interest of the Land Trust of expanding the Case Mountain Recreation Area with the possible acquisition of two parcels on Gardner Street. These two parcels, which recently became available, abut Water Department land and would make a connection between the recreation area and the Street if they fell under the ownership of the town.

Mr. O'Neill also talked about the southern extension of the Cheney Trail. He said that he would be interested in seeing the town not only extend the trail in the area but to also enhance the area with plantings and other visually appealing additions. Mr. O'Neill also said that the area would be ideal for rain gardens or butterfly gardens. He is aware that the Conservation Commission has had similar discussions about these same ideas and that they would support these enhancements.

Application Presentations

There were no new application presentations.

Wetlands Permit Status

- Mr. Laiuppa told the Commission that the previously filed application for the construction of small business rental units at 58 Sanrico Drive had expired. The applicant has submitted a new permit application with some modifications. After a discussion of the project, which does have wetland impacts and is adjacent to an existing trail, the Commission members had some comments.
 - Ms. Potocki and Mr. Belknap asked if the proposed project would have restrictions or prohibitions on the storage and handling of hazardous materials.
 - Mr. Laiuppa explained that material restrictions would be dictated by zoning.

- Mr. Billings questioned the integrity of the design of the retaining wall and the concern for safety at the top of the wall, from the trail.
- Mr. Belknap and Ms. Edwards asked about the landscaping at the top of the wall. They were concerned that there would not be a sufficient visual screen between the trail and the roof top. They also questioned maintenance of the landscaped area. How would the property owner access the area to maintain the vegetation?
 - Mr. Billings thought that, if the retaining wall was built with landscaping in mind, there may be an opportunity to use the wall to create a planting shelf.
- Mr. Belknap raised concerns about the proposed pine trees that are to be planted on the structural slope for the stormwater basin. White pines grow to be one of the largest trees in our area.
 - Tight spacing of such large trees, unless routinely pruned, would quickly lead to plant dieback and reduction of slope stability.
 - Such large trees, once established, have the potential to destabilize the slope of the stormwater basin if they are dislodged during a high wind event. It would seem that the replacement of white pines with either a shrub or a smaller tree would make sense.
- There was some general discussion about the opportunity to take advantage of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques in this new construction. Possibly adding solar panels to the proposed low-profile roofing.
- Mr. Laiuppa discussed a permit application that the Town Engineering Department has submitted for the reconstruction of portions of Hillstown Road. This reconstruction includes re-grading the road, adding curbing along the edge of the road, extending a multi-use trail along the shoulder of the road, and alterations and modifications to the drainage of the road. A portion of the drainage modifications will outlet onto land currently owned by the Land Trust. The Engineering Department will be presenting this project to the Land Trust in order to gauge their opinion on drainage outfall options.
 - Mr. Billings suggested the use of pervious pavers for the multi-use trail. He said that, because the trail is not for motorized vehicles, it would not be subject to the stresses associated with vehicular traffic and that pervious pavers would aid in infiltration, reducing the required load requirements associated with an impervious paved system.
 - Ms. Potocki and Ms. Edwards asked if the project is in-line with the “Complete Streets” initiative.
 - Concerning the proposed outfall options on Land Trust land:
 - The Commission had an overall preference for the idea of having stormwater discharge as far away from the pond as possible – encouraging infiltration and overland flow so that the upland portions of the field can act as a buffer before any toxicants or sediment is allowed to reach the sensitive resources (pond and wetlands).
 - The Commission understood that the Engineering Department still needed to make a presentation to the Land Trust and that there were several considerations on the table.

- Based mostly on point of discharge (in relation to the pond) this is the Commission’s order of preference:
 1. Level Spreader
 2. Pipe with outlet pulled away from the pond. Stone at the outlet and a well thought out vegetated area between the stone and the pond. Plants that would either take up excess nutrients and/or serve as a sediment trap.
 3. Pipe with the outlet closer to the pond edge. If this option is used the concern is with bank erosion – understanding that there is little opportunity for nutrient or sediment trapping with this option.
- The Commission asked which option is most adaptable to climate change. The concern is with larger storm events which could affect the flow calculations. The Commission thought that a pipe option might reach capacity and get “backed-up” into the street – where the level spreader would just over top.
 1. Due to this concern the Commission thought that it might make sense to either eliminate the curb near the outfall or to have a lower elevation curb there to act as an emergency spillway so that water doesn’t pond on the road.
- Mr. Laiuppa said that he would pass all of the concerns of the Commission on to the Engineering Department.

Communications

- Mr. Laiuppa said that he attended the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists annual meeting on March 14, 2019. He said that the talks were informative but not groundbreaking. He collected literature from the meeting if anyone wants to see it.
- Ms. Potocki said that the DEEP has conducted its Triennial Review of the Connecticut Water Quality Standards.

Reports

- Hockanum River Linear Park Committee (HRLPC)
 - Mr. Belknap said that they are working on clearing the Hockanum River channel in anticipation of the upcoming races.
- Case Mountain Recreation Area
 - Ms. Potocki said that there has been significant erosion on the carriage road and that there should be a better maintenance plan in place. The current practices are not fixing the problems.
- Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT)
 - Nothing to report.
- Rail Trails and Greenways
 - Nothing to report.

- Garden Club
 - Nothing to report.
 - Mr. Clancy requested that, since there are no longer members of the Garden Club on the Commission, that the Garden Club line item be removed from future agendas.
- Manchester Matters Bulletin
 - Ms. Edwards said that she has submitted her article about vehicle idling.
- Land Acquisition Committee
 - Nothing to report.

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 did not have any updates but that he would talk with the town inspection staff.

New Business

- No new business.

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