

CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

May 10, 2022, 7:00 PM

City Hall, 2nd Fl Conference Room, 41 Green Street

Attendees: Chair Kristine Tardiff, Vice-Chair Jim Owers, Councilor Stacey Brown,
Members Jeff Lewis, Chris Kane, and Rick Chormann, Alternate Mark Coen

Absent: Members Katherine Healy, Emily Landry and Alternate Allison McGregor

Staff: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner
Alicen Twardosky, Administrative Specialist

Public: Mike Lynch, Five Rivers Conservation Trust
Alex Green, Eversource
David Creer, Eversource
Nicole Martin, VHB

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tardiff at 7:00 p.m.

1. Minutes

April 12, 2023

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Owers, seconded by Mr. Kane, to approve the minutes of April 12, 2023 with the revisions to spelling. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Eversource Energy (PSNH) requests approval for two Conditional Use Permits (CUP), for disturbance of wetland buffers and the Shoreland Protection District for the placement of timber mats to access utility poles as part of the V182 & F139 Electric Transmission Lines Upgrades Project.

Nicole Martin from VHB, representing Eversource Energy, presented the application. David Creer and Alex Green from Eversource Energy were also present. This project involves a 14.3 mile right of way utility maintenance project from Franklin to Concord. All poles are proposed to be replaced with weathered steel. Stream impacts will be completely avoided. Erosion controls will be used to prevent sediment from exiting the work zone. This project is anticipated to begin the summer of 2023 and extend to the winter of 2024. Looking for approval from three sections of the zoning ordinance: 1) Shoreland Protection District (Hayward Brook on the left and Burnham Brook on the right, 2) Wetland buffers (timber matting will be used within the wetlands and disturbed upland areas will be revegetated and they will re-mulch and reseed with a mix that has been approved by DES post construction), 3) Residential Zoning Districts (construction of essential public utilities). Work-pads will be 100x100 feet. In an attempt to minimize impacts, they plan to cross wetlands at the narrowest points. Mr. Green stated that a portion of the Spears Park Trails that cross the right-of-way will need be closed during construction (the blue trails). He will reach out to Ms. Fenstermacher with dates so that information can be posted. The projected kickoff is estimated for August. Signage and proper notification will be provided in as far advance as possible, minimum three weeks.

On a motion made by Mr. Kane, seconded by Vice Chair Owers, the Board voted to recommend approval. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Brian Blackden from the Grange (Midnight Merriment Fireworks) along with a representative from Atlas Fireworks, to follow up on fireworks decision at Gully Hill.

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No one attended to present the proposal. It was tabled until June.

4. Mike Lynch from Five Rivers Conservation Trust to discuss the upcoming Regional Conservation Planning Plan and workshop.

Mr. Lynch is visiting various Commissionss within the Five Rivers regions to solicit assistance for their regional conservation plan to incorporate each community's concerns for their conservation needs. They are hosting a meeting on June 5th for all those within this area. He encourages attendance from up to four members of the City of Concord. It is being held at the Concord City-wide Community Center. Jeff Lewis and Chris Kane have rsvp'd in favor. Chair Tardiff will email the members to solicit attendance from one more person. Mr. Lewis voiced appreciation of the Five Rivers organization and their attempts to unify the purpose and goals of the various Commissions.

5. NHDES Items

a. NH Fire Training Academy Culvert Replacement, Standard Dredge & Fill Permit Application

The State submitted a wetlands application for a culvert replacement on Blaze Way.

The Commission has no comments.

6. City Open Space & Easements

a. For information only: Summary of 2022 W. Portsmouth Street Plantings

A summary and analysis of the plantings completed by the Merrimack River Watershed Council at the W. Portsmouth Street property was submitted for review by the Commission.

b. Five Rivers provided their 2022 Easement Monitoring Reports. Everything appeared fine, the following updates were provided: Carter Hill Orchard regarding the irrigation pond expansion; Maplewood Farm neighbor encroached on their lot line by mowing; and they plan to be placing more Five River signs out at Winant Park on the trails so that people are aware.

c. A follow up discussion on the Emerson Trail Race: There was concern raised a few days before the race regarding impacts to the trails after the recent heavy rains. Mr. Klemarczyk and Mr. Matson went out and inspected the grounds prior to the race to address any potential muddy/wet areas. It was reported by a member of the Trails sub-committee that the trails were dry during the race. Ms. Fenstermacher plans to make a recommendation to the Race Director that they host the race two weeks later next year to avoid mud season concerns.

d. Warren Richards Forest: There was a walk today to evaluate the premises for potential trails. The Richards family seem excited for the potential. There will be accessibility from Spear's Park. There is the possibility of putting off developing this until next year because of the Eversource construction, but not delaying going through the checklist. The Commission will schedule another time to go out with the Trails Committee. Mr. Lewis will help coordinate the conversation for next month's Trails meeting. Ms. Fenstermacher will do the NHB data check.

7. Reports

a. Trails – Jeff Lewis provided the following report from the May 10th trails subcommittee meeting:

i. Broken Ground NEMBA Trail: Proposal to the Trails Committee regarding building the additional trails at Broken Ground near Ry's Way. The discussion was continued until June, with a public hearing potentially in July. The wildlife study was completed today. Vice Chair

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Owers shared it with the Commission members. Ms. Fenstermacher provided the trail criteria checklist via email yesterday. Alicen will pull files for Vice Chair Owers.

- ii. Mr. Matson is doing his inspections and taking great notes.
- iii. Ms. Fenstermacher will reach out to David Gill at Parks & Recreation to have the David Coeyman trail head sign restored.
- iv. Upcoming trail hikes:
 - 1. June 3rd to do the Swope Lope Loop Vista with Stacey Brown. John Swope will be in attendance.
 - 2. Allison McGregor is hosting the hike Audubon this weekend.
 - 3. Chair Tardiff will host the July 8th hike on Sewalls Falls Trail beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Fenstermacher will send out the announcement regarding the trail hike schedule.

b. Forestry Report

A copy of the Forestry report was distributed for review.

c. Tree Sub-Committee

- i. May 16th: City-wide tree workshop @ 6pm hosted at the Community Center
 - 1. Giveaway #1: Provided by Unital– (8) containerized trees
 - 2. Giveaway #2: Provided by Merrimack Conservation District – (30) bare root trees. Any leftovers will go to the Farmers Market on the 20th.
- ii. The Tree subcommittee, including Ms. Fenstermacher and Councilor Brown, attended an Arboretum planted by Eversource at their facility in Hooksett. Stefanie Breton will be posting the poster that was provided by Eversource which lists appropriate trees for planting near power lines.

d. Local River Advisory Committees

Michelle Tremblay sent out another call looking for volunteers. Mr. Coen attended the April meeting. The agenda included Amoskeag Beverages on Hall Street, the King St. Cumberland Farms, and wastewater treatment plant on Hall St. regarding the solar collectors and its run-off.

Councilor Brown suggested possibly putting a sign on the river soliciting volunteers to join the Committee.

8. City Council / Planning Board

Councilor Brown reported that there was a great presentation by Tree subcommittee Chair Ted Diers at the last City Council meeting giving an annual update on trees in the City. She mentioned that Councilors Matson and Bouchard were interested in the report pertaining to grants and the possibility of tree planting on the Concord Heights.

The City budget will be published Thursday, May 11th, with a presentation next week.

9. Follow-up / On-going Items:

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a. *Conservation Easement Standard Templates* –

This is in Ms. McGregor's hands right now.

b. *Conservation Preserves* –

Mr. Kane's notes will be discussed at next month's meeting.

c. *MRGT* –

Not a lot to report by Mr. Kane. Ms. Fenstermacher attended the Friends of the MRGT meeting yesterday where they discussed next steps for meeting with the owner of 6 Loudon Road. The survey is presently being finalized so we can submit the shoreland permit for the cornfield section for construction to begin in September / October. The Loudon Rd bridge project has not had much movement due to staff shortage, but conceptual plans show trail crossing under the bridge. Staff talked with DOT regarding the exit 13 development. They are open to providing an easement for the trail to go through their property to avoid crossing Manchester Street.

Ms. Fenstermacher reports that talks with CSX are going slowly for acquisition of the rail line. Ms. Drukker (Acting City Engineer) is seeking an extension on the Tap Grant.

The Kiwanis Park Visioning session was held last week and attended by about 60 people, half the original meeting. The proposal was well received. There were concerns regarding the outdoor bathrooms and the very long dead end with no turn around. The trees will present a problem for the annual Kiwanis Fair. The proposal shows less impervious surface and more greenspace.

August 26th: The MRGT Triathlon, the week after the Sunflower festival.

The Sunflower Festival is being announced and promoted. Tickets are currently on sale for the Festival Dinner.

10. Other Business

- i. Land Use Change Tax. Put it on the agenda for coming months.
- ii. Concord Climate Stock Take, Part I: May 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice Chair Owers made a motion, second by Mr. Kane, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicen Twardosky

Administrative Specialist