

**Peterborough Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2017, Peterborough Town House, 7 p.m.
and April 28 site visit to 129 Wilton Road**

Present: Jo Anne Carr, John Kerrick, Matt Lundsted, Cynthia Nichols, John Patterson, Robert Wood, Francie Von Mertens; Select Board Liaison Tyler Ward
Guest: Nate Chamberlin, Fieldstone Land Consultants

March minutes were approved as were reimbursements for Saving Special Places Conference for Von Mertens and Debby Kaiser; annual NHACC dues. Also, ConCom's Trail Guide needs a reprint run.

Wetlands Protection Overlay Zone Conditional Use Permit 129 Wilton Road

Nate Chamberlin presented the plans that showed two incursions in the WPOZ for expanded parking, plus temporary WPOZ impacts for connection with town sewer.

Wetland stream with deep channel, steep slopes despite being intermittent.

Existing conditions: 12 spaces in front, paved; employee parking in back, gravel; no stormwater treatment.

Proposed: expansion in front to add 6-7 spaces, with incursion into WPOZ; addition of 2 handicapped spaces; paved surface throughout; stormwater treatment.

A second Conditional Use Permit for temporary WPOZ impacts to connect to town sewer by boring under intermittent stream/wetland.

Mitigation for impacts: Stormwater treatment that includes infiltration area and swales to direct runoff that way.

In response to Carr question, 4,062 s.f. will be impacted in WPOZ. She requested a copy of the stormwater report, which Mr. Chamberlin will email to ConCom.

Von Mertens pointed out that proposed parking spaces exceed the conventional ratio by 4, the number of spaces in the WPOZ. Compelling need has to be clear. Mr.

Chamberlin said the conventional ratio is conservative.

Carr asked about snow storage, to confirm it was not in the buffer.

Wood noted that applicant's plan to fill failed septic tank with sand instead of removing it would have less impact. A positive.

A site visit Friday April 28 at 4:30 p.m. was agreed to.

Open Space Committee update

Von Mertens gave information about promising initiatives in Old Jaffrey Road area involving conservation easements abutting existing conservation land. Open Space Committee likely will be recommending funding assistance to cover landowner expenses following town policy to do just that – from the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund, ConCom and Select Board agents to expend.

Easement monitor – hiring

Carr reported need to get three bids if contracting amount exceeds \$1,000, and that contractor hired by town has to be insured.

Richard Pendleton and Jeff Littleton have expressed interest in the job.

Von Mertens said funds would come from ConCom Land Acquisition and Management Fund that is primarily sustained by Land Use Change Tax, and there has not been a LUCT addition in several years. She will confirm that. Balance approximately \$100,000.

General consensus/compromise:

1. Hybrid. Contract out easements that ConCom has not been consistent monitoring. Wood suggested ConCom finalize which properties of the 19 easements held by ConCom for the Town a contractor would monitor.

2. By not doing the job, the ConCom has placed the town in the precarious position of having to pay for addressing easement infractions if an easement property's current landowner does not agree to address.

Riverfront parking lot / park

Carr reported on update from Rodney Bartlett that town is awaiting park landscaping plans from Silvia Benedito. Concerns remain about maintaining a vegetated buffer given that preliminary plan showed firepits and hardscaped walkways in the WPOZ ; and maximizing shade in parking lot area given clearing of major shade trees. Lundsted suggested budget will likely limit landscaping funds (for firepits etc.) given cost of parking lot and bridge

Climate Change outreach

Carr reported that Keene did a comprehensive climate resiliency plan in 2007 <https://www.ci.keene.nh.us/keene-climate-adapation-action-plan-and-summary> . Action plans relevant to ConCom work has to do with wetlands as floodwater storage and aquifer recharge areas, and educating public about both. Also permanently conserving natural areas.

The UNH website has links to other towns with either chapters in their Master Plan or similar plans.

https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource005847_Rep8202.pdf

They are mostly coastal towns (Portsmouth, Rye, plus Durham, and address flooding. UNH assists towns with climate change planning.

Publicizing Peterborough's rain gardens was one action ConCom could take that highlights town concern over aquifer recharge v. stormwater runoff directly entering waterways.

Ward asked whether town divestiture from fossil fuel corporate interests was a direction to explore, and Kerrick mentioned investment houses (Calvert Fund) that emphasize investments along that line.

When No Net Loss of shade was discussed as a town BMP, Matt reported that 40% more road salt is used on shady roads—indicating a certain complexity.

Von Mertens will assess a town-owned property downstream from Peters Oil that might be a good shoreline reclamation area with river shading and buffering the goal.

Other

Von Mertens will request that Code Officer check tree-clearing at Agway to make sure that naturally vegetated 50-foot wetland buffer is maintained.

/cn;fvm

