



## BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

### *Conservation Commission*

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### Minutes

**Conservation Commission**  
**Tuesday February 11, 2014**  
**7:00pm**

**Present:** Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman  
Jay Chrystal, Vice-Chairman (Left at 8:20pm)  
Jordan Bailey, Member  
Evangelos (Evan) Gerekos, Member  
Brendan Denehy, Selectboard Representative (Left at 9:15pm)  
Eric DiVirgilio, Alternate (Arrived at 8:30pm and left at 8:45pm)

**Absent:** Therry Neilsen-Steinhardt, Alternate.

#### **7:00pm Public Hearing**

Buddy read the hearing notice "Pursuant to N.H. R.S.A. 36-A:5, the Brookline Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February, 11, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room. This hearing will consider the use of Land Acquisition Funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) plus any associated closing costs for the acquisition of lot B-6 located Off Ball Hill Road containing 3.1 acres and Lot B-36 located off Ball Hill Road containing 56 acres."

Jay said they purchased lot B-7 last month and that lot sits between these two lots. These lots are located at the North end of town. This lot also had the benefit of a 50 foot right of way from Ball Hill Road to the Power Lines. There are a significant amount of trails located in this area.

Jay made a motion to use \$150,000 plus any associated legal costs the cost of an escrow account from the Land Acquisition Account for the purchased of lot B-6 & B-36. Evan seconded. Vote yes 5-0.

#### **7:15 pm Meridian Land Services – Tim Ferwerda – Wetlands & Soil Scientist – Wetlands Permit Process discussion.**

In attendance for this meeting is Timothy Ferwerda Meridian Land Services.

Jordan said they would like to know more about what the Board should be looking for when they receive a wetlands permit. Is there a checklist of some kind they should be using? They would also like to learn more about the permits. Tim said the State is looking into the functions and value of wetlands. Tim said the State is in the process of changing their permits to one single wetlands permit and then, you list what you will be doing. At the moment they have a Permit by Notification this is for smaller item like a seasonal dock, minimum impact permit less than 3,000 sf of forested wetland; there is also a Minor permit, and a major permit. Tim said he believes the State has changed it so there is one permit and then you state what you would like to do and what the affect will be on the property. The permit by notification is approved in 10

days. **Jay** said that the Conservation Commission should be reviewing any and all wetlands permits. **Tim** answered yes and said the State looks at the Conservation Commissions as an advisory Board and they rely on your local knowledge. **Buddy** said they are not wetlands specialists and the consultant is working for the client but we don't have any one standing up for the town. **Jordan** asked if other Conservation Commissions take a week or so to discuss this and then get back to the applicant. **Tim** said all Conservation Commissions are different. **Tim** said he thinks the Board has 40 days to review. **Jay** said maybe the Board should look into hiring a consultant if they have a larger project. **Evan** asked what they would do if the Board has an issue with a project and they don't believe that it was represented correctly in the permitting process. **Tim** said if you put it into writing and send it to the State they will review. **Tim** said there is one town that will not sign wetland permits at all. **Brendan** said it states that you waive your right to intervene if you sign the permit. **Tim** said you shouldn't be signing those unless you're comfortable. **Jordan** we don't want to hold up a permit but we would like to know that we can look into the permit.

### **General Business**

#### **PSNH, Curt Nelson, Easement Maintenance.**

**Curt** said he works for PSNH and he manages the vegetation growth along the easements. He has a crew out at the north end of Brookline just west of Ruonala Road. All utility companies are vamping up their vegetation maintenance. We have a lot of outages and storm related outages. We are regulated under FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). **Curt** explained in some areas it is difficult to know where the easement ends and the crew has inadvertently cut about 30 to 40 trees on town property. He apologized for the transgression. **Jay** asked what they did with the logs. **Curt** said fish and Game likes to see them piled up as it is a benefit to the wildlife. If they are smaller they are chipped. **Buddy** asked that the NH Forest Ranger be contacted to see what can be done in this situation.

#### **Subdivision Plan review – Case # 2014-1 A-6-1, C-9-1, off Hutchinson Hill Road, Comments for Planning Board**

**Buddy** said they have a site plan to review. **Kristen** said the Building Inspector wanted to point out that the wetland area on the proposed lot C-9-2 could be a vernal pool and believes the wetlands buffer should be extended around that area. After discussion the Board decided to send a letter to the Planning Board stating that on proposed lot C-9-2 there are some concerns about the 30 x 100 square foot area being a wetland (vernal pool) because there is no elevation contours shown between it and the already noted wetland. The mapping was completed in a non-seasonal manor and this should be verified. If it is found to be a vernal pool due to the close proximity of the marked wetlands and the small 30 x 100 square foot isolated area of a possible vernal pool listed the Board believes the wetlands buffer should also be applied around the 30 x 100 square foot area.

### **National Parks Service**

**Buddy** said the National Park Service has asked if anyone need help with a project. He thought of the property behind the Sunoco station on Route 13. They are still looking into what can be done with that area. **Brendan** said he would contact them.

### **Minutes**

Through a conference call between Jay, Buddy, and Eric **Jay made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of August 7, 2013 as written. Eric seconded. Vote yes 3-0.**

**Evan moved to approve the public and non-public minutes of the Conservation Commission. January 14, 2014. Jordan seconded. Vote yes 3-0.**

**Plowing the New Trail Head Parking Areas**

**Buddy** said at the last meeting you had asked about plowing trail heads. **Buddy** said he didn't believe without signage they should be plowing. **Buddy** said Conneck Road and Cider Mill Pond will not need to be plowed until they have signage.

**BCC – Possible New Member**

**Lynn Daigle** from 2 Parker Road was in attendance for this meeting. She told the Board she may be interested in joining the Conservation Commission and asked how she should go about doing so.

**Buddy** said they ask that she attends a few meetings and if she is still interested the Board would make a recommendation to the Selectboard to appoint her.

**2014 RTP Grant**

**Buddy** said the RTP grant is due March 3, 2014. The Town Administrator said he would put it together and submit the application. This is for the South end of Brookline to repair the rail road bed. We will also need permission from Beaver Brook Association.

**Evan made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Jordan seconded. Vote yes 3-0.**

**Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman**

**Jay Chrystal, Vice-Chairman,**

**Jordan Bailey, Member,**

**Evangelos (Evan) Gerekos, Member,**

**Brendan Denehy, Selectboard Representative,**

**Eric DiVirgilio, Alternate,**

**Submitted by Kristen Austin**

**Next meeting will be held on March 11, 2014**

