

**Town of Groton Conservation Commission
754 North Groton Road
Groton, NH 03241**

Meeting Minutes from December 11, 2014

The Groton Conservation Commission convened at 7:05 PM. Members in attendance were Robert Ferriere, Otto Jespersen, Steve (Slim) Spafford and Nancy Watson.

Jan Carruth, Louis Lieto, John Rescigno and Gina Rescigno were absent.

Bruce Barnard was present to review a permit.

The minutes from the November 13, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Slim made one correction. He stated the word "base" in the first paragraph on the second page should be replaced with "end". Nancy motioned to accept the minutes as written with the correction and Bob seconded. The motion passed Yes - 4, No - 0, Absent - 4.

New Business

Bruce Barnard presented to the CC a culvert permit application to the NHDES wetlands bureau. The subject property is Lot 13-3, one of four lots located in the Alpine Meadows subdivision on Bailey Hill Road, which is owned by Alan Barnard. Bruce has been asked by the owner to request the CC approve three water crossings which will require three different culverts. All crossings are Tier 1 stream crossings.

- #1 - 20' of 64" x 43" arched (oval) culvert
- #2 - 20' of 64" x 43" arched (oval) culvert
- #3 - 20' of 15" HDPE round culvert

The oval design reduces blockage and is constructed of aluminumized, galvanized steel with a poly coating.

Use of a silt fence downstream will catch any materials that flow from the construction site. The state of NH has up to 75 days to approve or disapprove the permit. If reviewed and approved by the municipal CC, the state will reduce the timeframe by one month. Bruce stated the optimum time to complete the work is in February before the occurrence of a thaw, which starts the water running. The one month reduction in time will help achieve this.

The design and application were inspected and reviewed by CC members. Bob motioned to accept the presentation from Bruce Barnard, stating the CC has reviewed this application and has no objections to the project as proposed. Otto seconded the motion, which passed Yes- 4, No - 0, Absent - 4. Bob was authorized to sign the permit as CC Vice Chairman, in the absence of Chairman Louis Lieto.

The CC decided to move ahead to #4 on the agenda, due to Bruce's presence. Mr. Barnard is a member of the Hebron CC, which has been active since 1966. Hebron completed a NRI two years ago, using the services of a grad student from Antioch College. This was cost effective and he felt grad students do good work. Rick Vanderpool from Sandwich is also a good source. Amanda Stone, a licensed wetlands scientist from UNH assisted Hebron in completing a Wetlands Protection Overlay District.

Bruce also mentioned the state inspects town bridges by request. He recommended Dennis Ford from the state Enfield office as a good resource for sizing and quoting prices for culverts.

A member of the Hebron CC will attend the Groton CC February 12, 2015 meeting.

Follow up of access to the Town Pond was discussed. Bob spoke with a representative from Primax, the town insurance carrier regarding a barrier. If a barrier is installed, it should not be a chain or cable, which could result in injury and lawsuits. Boulders would require a forklift to remove the obstruction, resulting in lost time and possible injury and more lawsuits. A swing or wood cross member gate that can be lifted was suggested as a better choice. The NH trail gate uses two - three foot tall posts with a ten foot minimum width pipe between them. Reflective tape is applied to the pipe and the pipe can easily be lifted and removed by emergency personnel. CC members agreed this would be a good choice. Nancy questioned who would pay for the materials and Bob stated he assumed the CC.

Names and contact information have been collected for all new members to the CC, excluding Jan Carruth. Nancy will follow up with Jan and update the member list for distribution to the CC.

Slim thanked the gentleman who supplied the fish for the derby. Once again, the CC reiterated the amount of 200 fish with the state matching that 200, would be sufficient for next year's derby.

The next CC meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2015. Lou may not be present and the meeting will be chaired by Bob if necessary.

Otto motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM. Nancy seconded. The motion passed Yes - 4, No - 0, Absent - 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Watson
Conservation Commission Secretary
December 16, 2014