

TOWN OF BEDFORD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 22, 2018
BCTV Meeting Room | 7:00 P.M. | 10 Meetinghouse Road

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday May 22, 2018 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford NH. Present were: Chairwoman Beth Evarts, Vice Chair James Drake, Dave Gambaccini, Bob McPherson, Maggie Wachs and Karin Elmer, Planner I.

7:00 Call to Order

Approval of Minutes:

- **MOTION by Chairwoman Evarts to table the approval of the April 24, 2018 minutes to the June meeting. The motion was seconded. Vote taken – all in favor. Motion passed.**

Dredge and Fill Applications:

- Town of Bedford – Dredge and Fill permit for road reconstruction and culvert replacements on Gage Rd.
 - Mitch from McFarland Johnson presented regarding the Dredge and Fill permits on Gage Road between Olde English Road and Liberty Hill Road for approximately 1600 feet. The purpose is because the pavement is in very poor condition.
 - Correcting the problem would impact 5 locations of wetland. 2833 square feet, 2499 square feet of it is forested wetlands and 334 square feet of emergent wetlands.
 - It was stated that there would be no anticipated water quality impact and there would be a slight increase in impervious surface. This project would also add stabilization to the sides to protect the wetlands.
 - There have been no complaints from affected homeowners and there will be no historic sites affected.

MOTION by Chairwoman Evarts to recommend approval to continue work at Gage Road. The Motion was seconded. Vote taken – all in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

- **Thomas Hamel** – REVISED request for a review of a proposed variance application for the installation of an in ground pool 38.6 feet from the edge of a wetland where 50 feet is required at 201 Campbell Rd., Lot 16-8-7.
 - Mr. Hamel’s original plan was 22 feet from a wetland and he has changed the plan to 38.6 feet from a wetland. The necessary amount is 50 feet from a wetland. He added that this was the closest he could get to his house since there is a deck.
 - Mr. Drake questioned the equipment coming in to build the pool and the effect it would have on the land, which Mr. Hamel stated that he would be cutting down trees to make room. He mentioned that 14 feet was needed around the pool in order to get the trucks on his property.
 - Mr. Drake asked why the pool cannot be rotated to fit better and Mr. Hamel replied that it still wouldn’t make the difference for location. He stated that by turning the pool, it would encroach on the wetlands in 3 spots instead of 2 spots with the current plan. Chairwoman Evarts asked about a smaller size pool, but Mr. Hamel stated that for his family, it would not make financial sense. The pool Mr. Hamel would like to install would be 26’ x 40’.
 - Chairwoman Evarts pointed out that 5 homes in the same neighborhood with pools have met the criteria for the wetland setback, but Mr. Hamel stated that in 2011 another pool was approved by the council within 30 feet of a wetland setback.
 - Chairwoman Evarts is concerned about the chemicals from the pool going into the protected brook. Mr. Hamel stated that a salt system would be installed to prevent any chemicals from getting into the brook. The pool would be a salt water pool.

MOTION by Chairwoman Evarts to document concerns and recommendations and send a non-recommendation to the ZBA regarding this variance review, mentioning size and placement of the proposed pool. The motion was duly seconded. Vote taken – all in favor. Motion to send non-recommendation carried.

- Review submission for forest stewardship plan for Pulpit Rock Conservation Area.
 - Chairwoman Evarts has brought up the plan to Bill Coder for input and hopes to get an update by the June meeting.
 - Karin Elmer will be sending out a request for information on why only one person has replied to the RFP.

Old Business:

- Chairwoman’s update

- The Planning Dept has been working with a former intern at DPW who is geomapping the town. They have approached him about doing part time work with Planning to locate town trails. Chairwoman Evarts stated that this will be done in 3 phases:
 - 1. Trying to get GPS coordinates and shape files into an app so we can get maps of trails;
 - 2. Copy trail maps for those who don't want to use their phones on hikes;
 - 3. Create a walkabout book of trails.
- Currently, there is no timeline for completion and it is unsure where the money would come from for all the phases. UNH would be providing the app information.
- Update on Pulpit Rock Trail Grant
 - Chairwoman Evarts met with the Amherst Conservation Commission and all are excited about work being done on the trail. The Town of Bedford will be working with them to get ideas on how to deal with certain issues that may arise. The Town of Amherst would like to create a sub-committee to help manage the Pulpit Rock land since part of the land is in Amherst.
 - Some Girl Scout troops have expressed interest in becoming involved with the conservation projects.
 - Work is being done on a design and there is hope to order lumber soon. Volunteers are requested to help with the projects.
 - A BCTV program will be created to highlight the trails in Bedford, including a separate segment on the Pulpit Rock Trail Grant progress. The video will be on the town Facebook page and the town website once it's complete.
- Update on FORECO project at Greenfield Farms
 - It was stated that lots have been surveyed and a quote is available to finalize the rest of the lots.
 - 106 lots are left for a total of \$1400
 - Boundary markers are also needed for a cost not to exceed \$700

MOTION by Chairwoman Evarts for the Commission to approve surveying all 106 lots and spending \$1400. The motion was seconded. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.

MOTION by Chairwoman Evarts for the Commission to approve purchase and installation of the boundary markers not to exceed \$700. The motion was seconded. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.

- Mission Statement review
 - Chairwoman Evarts would like all feedback by the June meeting.
- Update on social media Commission news articles
 - Chairwoman Evarts would like to fill articles once there are volunteers for the Pulpit Rock Trail Grant.

Reports of Committees:

- Update on Easement monitoring by the Bedford Land Trust
 - Ms. Elmer stated that there was a hobo camp found at the recent cleanup day at Pulpit Rock. They are working on cleanup, but may have to hire a company to assist due to the large amounts of trash, concrete, and posts that were put in, making cleanup worse than expected.
 - Kiosks will have boundaries listed so it's known to report something if seen.
 - Van Loan property is in disrepair and a deer stand has been found on the property.
 - Bridge will be looked at by the Town Engineer but Ms. Elmer does not have an update on the status.

Enclosures: None

Other Business:

Adjournment:

MOTION by Chairwoman Evarts to adjourn at 8:07pm. The motion was seconded. Vote taken all in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Schoff