

Hampton Falls Conservation Commission

March 8, 2007

Final

1. Call to Order: Karen Ayers called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Present were Karen Ayers (CC Chair), Marietta Garavaglia (CC Administrative Assistant), Eric Small (Selectmen's Representative), regular members David Gandt, Nancy Roka, Greg Smart and Robert Wiener; Tracy Healey-Beattie arrived at 7:00 p.m. Absent were Elizabeth Volpone and alternate member Larry Smith.

2. Meeting Schedule for 2007: The Commission decided to retain the 6:30 p.m. starting time for regular meetings and eliminate the published schedule for a monthly work session (work sessions will be posted as needed). E. Small will make these revisions.

3. Prior Meeting Minutes:

- a. 11/09/06 (Regular Meeting): Nancy Roka and Karen Ayers cited revisions to the minutes. David Gandt will amend as recommended. Motion to accept as amended: N. Roka; seconded: G. Smart; unanimous.
- b. 12/14/06 (Regular Meeting): Nancy and Karen recommended changes to the minutes; David will revise per their comments. Motion to accept as amended: N. Roka; seconded: R. Wiener; unanimous.
- c. 12/20/06 (Tonry Public Hearing): N. Roka and K. Ayers cited revisions to the minutes; D. Gandt to amend as recommended. Motion to accept as amended: T. Healey-Beattie; seconded: R. Wiener; unanimous.
- d. 1/25/07 (Matrix Meeting): Nancy and Karen noted changes to the minutes; M. Garavaglia to amend. Motion to accept as amended: N. Roka; seconded: R. Wiener; one abstention. The motion passed.
- e. 2/08/07 (Regular Meeting): Motion to accept as written: N. Roka; seconded: R. Wiener; unanimous.
- f. 2/22/08 (Matrix Meeting): Nancy suggested inserting "...at the January 25th meeting" for clarity. Motion to approve as amended: N. Roka; T. Healey-Beattie seconded; two abstentions. The motion carried.

4. Action Item List: Many of the items were completed and are discussed under the agenda headings. T. Healey-Beattie commented that she had written an editorial concerning Warrant Article #25 and had submitted it to the Hampton Union. She is hopeful that it will appear in the March 9th edition.

5. Election of Officers: E. Small recommended to the Commission that they postpone election of officers until new members are appointed or existing appointments are renewed. The Commission agreed; this will be addressed at the April meeting.

6. PR Liaison: K. Ayers read a letter from Elizabeth Volpone stating that she was resigning from the Commission. T. Healey-Beattie asked that the meeting minutes reflect the members' appreciation for Elizabeth's contribution to the Commission. Since Elizabeth had served in the PR capacity, Karen asked the Commission for suggestions on filling this important position; Karen also added that the Library was in the process of establishing a Library Corner which would highlight the various committees in Town and their activities, adding that this would be a good opportunity for the CC to publicize their efforts. The question was raised as to whether the CC meeting minutes could be available through the Town's website; E. Small will investigate this possibility. M. Garavaglia suggested that she could assist as the PR Liaison, and N. Roka recommended that the CC brainstorm on a regular basis (perhaps at monthly meetings) to provide direction for Marietta in this role.

7. Matrix Development: Marietta reported that she had updated the matrix based on direction provided at the February 22nd workshop. Copies were collected and are in the CC mail slot for use at the March 22nd workshop.

8. Notification to the CC of Board Agenda/Building Permits: M. Garavaglia said that she had spoken with both Lori Ruest and Kevin Kelly and had developed a preliminary plan to ensure that the CC was informed of applications/permits that might impact conservation areas. To develop a list of properties in which the CC has an interest, Marietta will begin with information contained in the Town Report; N. Roka will supplement this with information she compiled in the past. It was also suggested that Marietta obtain a copy of Kevin Kelly's spreadsheet which tracks building permits.

With regard to Cases #07-03 (application from Deborah L. Norton-Torromeo requesting a variance to the terms of

Article III, Section 8.4.1) and #07-04 (application from Stephen and Leigh Wilber requesting a variance to the terms of Article III, Section 8.4.1)-- both scheduled for the March 22nd ZBA meeting-- G. Smart stated that the CC needs a packet and plans on which to judge the potential wetlands impact for these variance requests. Other members questioned the protocol for this review process; E. Small will review with Lori Ruest and advise the CC. K. Ayers suggested that members arrive at 6:30 p.m. on 3/22 in order to review the relevant plans; G. Smart (and others, if possible) will join Karen for this review.

9. Flyer on Warrant Article #25: Marietta reported that the flyer was in the mail (at cost of \$207.67), and acknowledged the recent contributions of Elizabeth Volpone and David Gandt.

10. Biggi Update: Karen reviewed recent communications with Pam Biggi and informed the group that Pam had requested that Mike Daigneault update the appraisal on the 30 (+ or -) acres originally outlined in Roscoe Blaisdell's report. Marietta added that she had contacted Mr. Daigneault; he informed her that he could complete the appraisal by March 29th at a projected cost of \$1,200 - \$1,500. N. Roka suggested that the appraisal also include consideration of the back land and R. Wiener made the following motion:

To approve the request to update the appraisal on 30 acres of land (based on Roscoe Blaisdell's analysis) and to update the conservation easement value per acre of back land.

T. Healey-Beattie seconded the motion; unanimous.

M. Garavaglia will coordinate this request with Mr. Daigneault. K. Ayers asked for a volunteer to replace her as the primary negotiator, and D. Gandt agreed to serve in this capacity. G. Smart also agreed to join the negotiating team, with the understanding that he would be unavailable after June 1st.

11. Prime Wetlands Warrant Article: Marietta stated that she had reviewed the NHEP Grant Opportunity and had spoken with Jodi Castallo, program coordinator. The grant provides up to \$8,000 in support of activities such as Prime Wetlands education and protection; further, the NHEP works with Mark West as a Technical Assistance Provider (TAP). K. Ayers volunteered to complete the application and to apply for the grant.

12. Kopka Follow-Up: T. Healey-Beattie said that she had spoken with Dave Murray and that she will be in touch with Cathy Coletti (PR contact) the beginning of next week.

13. Jet-Ski Petition: Karen reported that she had sent an e-mail to Ellen Goethel (2/11/07) indicating the CC's interest in supporting this petition; to date she has not received a response.

14. Status of Dredge & Fill Application (McInnis): N. Roka checked on this application; based on the DES's website, it is under technical review. M. Garavaglia mentioned that the new procedure for Dredge & Fill applications must include documentation issued by the Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) covering the presence of rare species or exemplary natural communities that might be in the vicinity of the proposed project. Nancy also commented on the *DataCheckTool*, through which users can request this assessment on-line.

15. E.N. Small: Eric Small explained his role with the CC, stating that his objective was to facilitate communications between the Commission and the Board of Selectmen. He said that the BOS would like to meet with the Commission once or twice per year for a mutual exchange of priorities and objectives. Suggestion was made (from the Commission) to have round-table meetings between the BOS and all Town boards and committees biannually. Eric also distributed the latest financial report for the Commission.

16. Correspondences/Workshops: Marietta reported on the Pervious Concrete Seminar, encouraging others to attend. She also distributed the Boston Globe article covering the Marsh Symposium in Newburyport (which Eric had circulated earlier). The Commission decided to postpone the discussion on Earth Day until the Matrix Meeting on March 22nd, and elected to forgo the Composting Campaign for this year. D. Gandt mentioned that he still has a number of birdhouses in his garage.

Nancy Roka left the meeting at 8:35 p.m. R. Wiener made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.; G. Smart seconded. Unanimous.

Marietta L. Garavaglia, Conservation Commission Administrative Assistant

