

PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CC) MEETING
Approved Minutes of April 14, 2008

Attendance

Present

Members: Lea Anne Atwell, Secretary; Carol Bertsimas, Vice-Chair; Kevin Gagne; Ammy Heiser, Chair; Stetson Heiser; Kevin Krebs, Planning Board (PB) Representative; Ayn Whytemare

Alternates: Jeff Abbe

Not Present

Members: David Sheldon, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Representative

Brian Tufts is no longer the BOS representative to the CC. David Baril is taking a leave of absence from being an alternate member. Tina Courtemanche, BOS and Harold Thompson were also present at the meeting.

1. Call to Order – Ammy called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

2. Amoskeag Rowing Club Presentation – June Larkins, Jim Raymond, and Irv Tolls were present to explain improvements to the rowing club property adjacent to Memorial Field along the Merrimack River. A portion of the property was cleared and used for parking for the Old Home Day celebration. The riverfront at the property was not affected by the flooding last year. The club is planning to install a dock in a flatter area at the southern end of their property. They submitted a site plan to the PB and got conditional approval for the dock. They also submitted a dredge and fill application and an updated wetlands permit to NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) about one month ago and are waiting for comments. The gas company is in the process of relocating an easement on their property as well. We should let the club know if we have comments regarding the dock. We will coordinate a site walk, possibly April 21st at 5:30 pm.

3. LTC Dredge and Fill Application Presentation – This presentation has been postponed until our May 12th meeting.

4. Review and Adopt minutes~ March 10, 2008 – Ayn made a motion to accept the minutes with no revision. Carol seconded the motion. Five in favor, 3 abstained. Motion carried.

5. Conservation Land Business

a. Adoption of Warrant Article #4 – The CC's warrant article was passed at Town Meeting in March.

b. Schuett tree – Kevin met with the landowners and Town Highway Department personnel to examine the tree. The threat of the tree falling is not as imminent as originally thought, but the tree should be removed. Kevin indicated that the landowners could not remove the wood after the tree is cut down. The Highway Department will be able to cut it down;

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however, since the landowners will not let them on their property, the Highway Department will have to wait to remove the tree until the mud is gone and the tree can be accessed from the conservation property. Kevin made a motion that the Highway Department should take down the tree, leaving the tree on the ground after it falls. The wood should be left on the ground (not removed) to create habitat. Stetson seconded. Seven in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

c. Beck Lot Line – Stetson received a call regarding clearing on the Beck property. No clearing was observed during our monitoring this year. Stetson will communicate with the concerned property owner that the CC does not allow clearing and will check to make sure it is not taking place during our annual monitoring.

d. Land Use Criteria Rating Sheet – Discussion took place about the rating sheet. According to Kevin Krebbs, the PB would like to know which of the criteria are more important and wants to know what our cut off number is for accepting a conservation property using the rating sheet. The CC took over a year to develop the rating sheet to use as a guideline only. The intention was not to have a cut off value established. We agreed that we could provide the PB with more information as to why a particular piece was accepted, rather than just a statement of our approval / disapproval.

e. White Sands – Ammy will touch base with Geoff regarding the list of items that need to be attended to before the gate is installed.

6. Land Acquisition Update

a. Ayn Whytemare – Discussion took place about approaching land owners with houses on their property that may be interested in giving / selling a conservation easement to the Town. Ayn recently had a conversation with such a landowner; however, the CC needs to do some more research to determine the logistics of such a potential arrangement. If something like this were to go through, we would need to make sure that the house was removed from the easement. Discussion took place about what rights the landowner would have, specifically, would they still be able to post against trespassing, hunting, etc.

ACTION ITEMS: Tina will check with the BOS to see what their position is and if they would accept such an easement. In the meantime, Ayn will send a letter to the landowner indicating the CC is interested and exploring options. Ayn will also touch base with Karen Rose, who works with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) and lives in Pembroke.

b. Ritchie White and Peter Speiwak – The Ritchie White piece was sold and is obviously no longer a potential candidate for conservation land.

c. Kathy Cavallaro – Kathy contacted the CC regarding her property that is one lot over from the Whittemore piece. The property is either 85 or 105 acres (tax information is conflicting). She is interested in selling the property.

ACTION ITEM: Stetson will contact Kathy to schedule a walk of the property.

7. Membership

a. Term Expirations – Ayn, Ammy, and Stetson's terms are up, and they would like to continue on as CC members. Ammy will contact the BOS to have their terms renewed.

b. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary – Kevin made a motion to elect Ammy to a second term as Chair. Carol seconded. Seven in favor, none opposed. Motion carries. Ammy made a motion to elect Carol to a second term as Vice-chair. Ayn seconded. Seven in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

Carol made a motion to elect Lea Anne to second term as Secretary. Stetson seconded the

motion. Seven in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

c. New Selectman Representative – David Sheldon is our new representative. He could not make this meeting, but will be at our meeting in May.

8. Applications for Review and Comment – The following applications are before the PB and were submitted to the CC for comment.

a. #08-02, Field/Clark lot line adjustment – We missed the deadline for comments. This application was approved by the PB at their last meeting.

b. Hud 202: Pembroke Elderly Housing Project – A conceptual plan was submitted to the PB. An existing building will be removed and a new building and parking area will be constructed. Limited information on the project was provided. NHDES is reviewing the application. Kevin made a motion that the CC needs additional information about impacts to the surrounding area, specifically wildlife and vegetation, drainage outflow, and downstream impacts, as well as the plans for the undeveloped portion of the property. Stetson seconded. All in favor. Motion carries. Ammy will fill out the comment form with the above information and return it to the PB.

c. #08-103, Grace Capital Church Expansion – The church submitted a conceptual plan to the PB to add parking, a new driveway, and expand the building. The renovations will take place in areas of the property that are already cleared. They need an alteration of terrain permit from NHDES, as well as a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). Carol made a motion that the CC has no comment at this time, as it appears there are no conservation issues to comment on at this time. Kevin seconded. Seven in favor. Motion carries. Ammy will fill out the comment form with the above information and return it to the PB.

8. Correspondences and Miscellaneous

a. Material for Notebook – Budget was provided in our packets.

b. Municipal Newsletter submission- Our submission for the Town report never made it in the report, so we will see if that can be used for the newsletter submission instead.

c. Items for next meeting's agenda – Lea Anne will give a brief overview of the new Shoreline Protection rules. We should discuss conservation monitoring.

9. Adjournment – Lea Anne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 pm.

**Next Meeting
Monday, May12, 2008**