

PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CC) MEETING
Approved Minutes of July 23, 2007

Attendance

Present

Members: Lea Anne Atwell, Secretary; Kevin Gagne, Ammy Heiser, Chair; Stetson Heiser, Todd Terrien, Planning Board (PB) Representative; and Ayn Whytemare.

Alternate Members: Jeff Abbe

Other: Harold Thompson, Sewer Department

Not Present

Members: Carol Bertsimas, Vice-Chair; Brian Tufts, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Representative

Alternate Members: David Baril

Other: Laura Scott, Planning Director

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Ammy at 7:05 pm. Jeff will vote for Carol. Lea Anne will not be at the August 13th meeting, so someone else will have to take minutes.

2. Current Conservation Land

a. White Sands – Review/Amend Draft Plan and Timeline

Discussion took place about allowed uses at White Sands. Lea Anne expressed concern over hunting and related safety concerns. Swimming season and hunting season do not overlap, so there should not be any problems. During our public hearing for the Public Use Policy, members of the public expressed concern about the fact that current hunting adequately protect lands and any additional rules by the CC would be over-regulation. For the upcoming public hearing, the CC decided to recommend that hunting, as well as the other allowed uses as outlined in our Public Use Policy, be allowed at White Sands.

Discussion took place about parking once the gate is in place. Laura provided revised plans for our review that outlined a proposed parking area. Concern was expressed over the light poles and how they would affect parking. Harold pointed out problems with erosion along bank into river and indicated that we should be considering implications from the standpoint of shoreline protection. He also expressed concerns over potential runoff from proposed parking area into the pump station.

We also discussed modifying the plan to show setbacks. Several other questions were raised: Are we following all applicable state laws with the proposed parking area? Is the parking area on our land or on PSNH's? Do we have a drainage plan for the parking lot? We can finalize some of these items before the meeting. We should plan on reviewing the situation after the gate is in place and make adjustments as needed.

Discussion took place about getting the word out about the August 13, 2007 hearing. The CC understands that the notices for the public hearing will be put in the paper, but CC

members expressed a need to put something in the newspaper. Can we put a letter to the editor in the paper? A CC could put something out as a member of the public, not as a member of the CC, but we need to know if this is appropriate. We discussed putting up a sign at White Sands advertising the meeting.

We discussed limiting the use of White Sands to Pembroke residents only, when other conservations lands are open to the general public. Discussion took place about the fact that the limitation was required because of the limited amount of parking available.

We have not heard back from any of the other departments, and we need finalized information from other departments before we can finalize costs. Also, we should have public hearing first. We also need to figure out if our design plan meets all of the necessary requirements – are there other costs that we don't know.

ACTION ITEMS: We should clarify the following items with Laura: 1) Is the parking on our land or on PSNH land? 2) Are we properly addressing setbacks from the river and are we following the NH DES requirements for shoreline protection?; 3) Do we need any permits to construct the parking area? ; 4) Ayn would like to put something in the paper – is this okay?

b. Property monitoring status update

Several people are going to wait to do monitoring until the leaves are gone. Todd and Lea Anne completed the monitoring for the Clark property.

Ayn completed half of the monitoring for the Whittemore property. She observed numerous downed trees on the property, which have been cleared, most likely by ATV users. While conducting the monitoring, Ayn ran into an ATV rider, who told her that Scott Lane, Chief of Police, told him was okay to ride on the property. We should post conservation lands against ATV use. Discussion took place about ATV use in Pembroke, and there was some uncertainty over what is allowed. Are registered ATVs are allowed on the Range Roads?

Also, the nuts/bolts aren't correct for larger signs. We should use galvanized nails for the medallion signs. The large yellow signs should be posted on property corners, and smaller medallion signs should be placed in between.
What are the rules about ATV use?

ACTION ITEM: Ask Laura to touch base with Scott Lane about ATV use. Could we invite him to one of our meetings to discuss?

Ayn brought up working with Boy Scouts. We probably do not need any more trails at the Whittemore, which would encourage ATV use. She suggested forming an education subcommittee to reach out to the schools. We should revisit this issue once we have resolved some of the issued with White Sands.

3. Meeting Minutes – Review and Adopt July 9th

Mala Tyler had expressed concern over the minutes. We didn't properly withdraw the motion regarding who would pay for the costs associated with changing the Scripture easement. We should change the language in this section, as well as the language regarding who would pay for the costs. Stetson moved to accept the minutes as ammended. Todd seconded.

4. Proactive Land Identification for Possible Conservation Acquisition **c. Review/Amend draft property owner letter and material** **d. Review/Amend list of identified land**

Ammy went through all of the records that Laura had pulled from our last working meeting. She eliminated those that contained houses and were duplicates. Ammy listed acreage, assessed value, and owner of all records. We should eliminate more from this stack. We reviewed the property tax maps for the parcels we had previously selected and reviewed approximately half of the records.

5. Non-public session

Ayn left the meeting at 9:10 pm. Ammy made a motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 for Laura Scott's performance review. Todd seconded. All in favor. Non-public session starts at 9:18 pm. Non-public session ended at 9:47 pm. Todd made a motion to seal the minutes. Kevin seconded. All in favor.

6. Adjournment

Stetson made a motion to adjourn. Lea Anne seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.