

PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 10, 2023

In attendance: Ammy Heiser (Chair), Carol Bertsimas (Vice), Brian Mrazik (Secretary), Tom Gallo, Ayn Whytemare, Karen Yeaton (BOS Rep), Brent Edmonds (PB Rep), Erin Insley

Absent: Wendy Weisiger

Guest: Anthony Drouin, Administrator, Residuals Management, NHDES

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Biosolids and PFAS: In response to a request from the lessee for permission to apply Class B biosolid fertilizer to soils of the Hillman Farm, the CC requested a briefing by NHDES on their current regulations and guidance particularly in light of the ongoing controversy regarding polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. Anthony Drouin, Administrator of the Residuals Management Section in the Water Division of NHDES provided the briefing and the CC is grateful for the excellent presentation made by him.

Current Federal and state regulations for the management and land application of biosolids can be found at 40 CFR Part 503 and Env-Wq 800, respectively. Over 40,000 tons (wet) of NH-sourced biosolids have been applied to land in New Hampshire, mostly as fertilizer for farming purposes. NHDES has done extensive sampling of PFAS in pre- and post-treatment wastewater from residential, commercial, and industrial collection systems and has found that PFAS presence is nearly ubiquitous, ranging from as little as 20 ng/l (parts per trillion) to 4,500 ng/l. The highest levels (7,200 ng/l) were generally found in industrial leachate from landfilled sludge, but levels in post-treatment residential/commercial wastewater were as high as 4,500 ng/l at wastewater treatment facilities. Pre-treatment wastewater typically had lower measured levels of PFAS because current analytical methods do not detect PFAS precursors. After oxidation of precursors in wastewater treatment plants or landfills, higher levels of PFAS are usually detected.

NHDES has also sampled Class A and B biosolids for four PFAS compounds that are considered most toxic to humans. These materials came from a number of wastewater treatment facilities. Concentrations of these compounds typically ranged from 0.5 to 6 ng/g (parts per billion), with little difference between Class A and B. Interestingly, manufactured toilet tissue was found to contain PFAS concentrations ranging up to 1.7 ng/g and may be a significant source of PFAS in wastewater and biosolids.

NHDES has a Sludge Quality Certification Program, and a certificate is required for all biosolids intended for land application. The certificate, issued to a wastewater treatment facility, requires quarterly sampling of volatile organic compounds, metals, PCBs, and other chemicals including PFAS. NHDES is proposing a PFAS standard below 10 parts per billion (probably 5ppb) for both soils and biosolids.

Conservation Lands:

1. **Hillman:** The CC continued its discussion of the proposed biosolids application to the farm fields. Although Class B biosolids have been utilized previously on the site, the CC has concerns regarding the lower level of treatment of Class B material and the potential

environmental and esthetic impacts of its placement on conservation land. One option would be to permit only the use of Class A material which has a greater level of treatment but is more costly. The CC decided to review the cost differences and the potential impacts on the lessee's profitability if this requirement is imposed. The CC will relook this issue at the August meeting.

2. **Belfry Court:** At the time of development of this area, wetlands were protected by easement due to the presence of spotted turtles which are listed as threatened by the NH Fish and Game Department. Since the alleged dumping of hydroseeding materials in the wetland is being addressed by other Town departments, the CC will defer to them.
3. **Stoney Brook:** A proposal was received from Hank Amsden to survey the boundaries of this parcel in order to determine if the large pine tree that fell on an abutter's property was from the conservation area. Because the cost of the survey was approximately \$2,500, Brian suggested that the CC do a quick survey of the boundary near the base of the tree with a surveyor's compass and tape in order to determine whether the tree was obviously inside or outside of the parcel. Then, if a determination could not easily be made, the CC would then proceed with the more accurate and costly survey. The CC agreed to pursue this course.
4. **Monitoring:** No new updates.

Planning Board Applications: Special Use Permit Applications SUP-WP #23-305, SUP-AC #23-306, and SUP-SP 23-307, Continental Paving, Inc. owner of Tax Map 559, Lot 6, in the Commercial/Light Industrial (C1) Zone. The Applicant requests Special Use Permits for bridge construction in the Aquifer Conservation District, within wetland buffers, and within the Shoreland Protection District. The CC has significant environmental concerns with this project due to potential impacts on aquifers, river shorelands, wetlands and floodplains. The need for this project should be reviewed by the Planning Board given the existing access from North Pembroke Road and an existing private bridge across the Soucook River owned by the applicant. The life cycle of the site and should also be considered in relation to the remaining aggregate available for extraction and the likely future use of the site and the proposed bridge. Plans and responsibilities for bridge maintenance and or removal upon abandonment or sale of the site should also be addressed. Specific environmental concerns include the potential for spillage of toxic materials directly into the Soucook River, aquifer and wetlands. Hydraulic analysis of the effect of the proposed bridge on the river flow characteristics and flood hazards should be assessed before project approval.

Zoning Board Applications: None

DES Letters and Applications: None.

Review and Approve Minutes of June 12, 2023 Meeting: Tom moved to accept the minutes of the June 12 meeting, as drafted. Carol seconded. All voted in favor except Brian, who abstained.

Other Business:

1. **New Member:** The BOS approved Erin Insley as a new alternate member.
2. **Facebook Page:** Erin Insley agreed to take over as new administrator of the CC's Facebook page.
3. **Conservation Lands Signs:** Wendy is working with Megaprint on obtaining a proposal for this effort. Ammy will put it on the agenda for the August meeting and will include the cost in the 2024 budget.

Mail and Correspondence: None of significance.

Adjournment: By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

NEXT MEETING: August 14, 2023