

PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2024

In attendance: Carol Bertsimas (Vice), Brian Mrazik (Secretary), Wendy Weisiger, Ayn Whytemare, Erin Insley, Brent Edmonds (PB Rep),

Absent: Tom Gallo, Ammy Heiser (Chair), Karen Yeaton (BOS Rep)

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Planning Board Applications: Tax Map 634, Lot 3 located at 91 Whittemore Rd. A conceptual discussion with the Technical Review Committee is planned for February 13. Casey DeStefano, a prospective buyer, would like to discuss and get feedback on potential uses for the property. This is a 12.5-acre parcel owned by the Plourde Sand and Gravel Company that the CC had previously expressed interest in acquiring. The land is primarily floodplain and lies along approximately 2,600 feet of shoreline on the Soucook River. The land also lies within aquifer and wetland districts. Carol agreed to attend the TRC meeting.

Zoning Board Applications: None

DES Letters and Applications: None

Conservation Lands:

1. **Beck Parcel Survey:** Work on this survey is almost complete and a “progress print” of the draft boundary plan has been submitted by Belanger. The survey has found or located many missing markers, especially along Pembroke Street, where several markers were significantly off in distance from the corners of abutting lots. Two encroachments (sheds) were also identified in the right-of-way on Terrie Dr.
2. **Monitoring Updates:** Erin completed monitoring of the Schuett parcel.

Review and Approve Minutes of January 8, 2024 Meeting: Brent motioned to approve the minutes of the January 8 meeting, as drafted. Ayn seconded. All voted in favor.

Acquisitions: Ayn mentioned that a relative, Diane Kietzke, owns a 33-acre parcel of land (Map 939, Lot 66) adjacent to the Whittemore Town Forest where Diane is planning a timber harvest. Ayn is having discussions with Diane about any interest she may have in selling or donating this parcel to the Town for conservation. Funding from the Phipps donation could potentially be utilized for a purchase.

Other Business:

1. **Conservation Area Signs:** Ayn reported that she obtained a quote from Signarama for 5 green conservation area signs (30”x30”) for \$154 each and 10 yellow boundary signs (12” x 18”) for \$28 each. The total cost exceeds the \$1,000 that the CC had previously approved for this purchase. A discussion ensued as to whether to approve the additional funding or to

reduce the order. Concern was expressed that a reduced number of signs would be insufficient and that the price of the larger signs was considerably higher than anticipated. Wendy volunteered to investigate prices from potential non-local sources to see if significant savings could be achieved by utilizing more standardized sizes (e.g. 18" x 24").

2. **Range Roads:** Carol noted that trucks have been using the Range Roads even though they are officially closed for the season. Brian also noted that ATVs have been seen as well. There have been inquiries as to why the roads are closed to ATVs. The CC discussed possible actions which could be taken to reduce violations. Some options include increased public education, barriers (gates and bars), and increased enforcement. Carol agreed to bring up the issue at the TRC meeting. Ayn agreed to put information on Facebook.
3. **Monitoring Day:** The CC has selected April 13 (rain date April 14) for this year's monitoring day. Ayn talked to Ryan O'Hora at the Town Library, and he agreed to do some PR work to promote it.
4. **Saving Special Places Workshop:** Wendy announced that UNH Extension is holding its annual land conservation conference on Saturday April 6 at Prospect Mountain High School in Alton. For more information see: <https://extension.unh.edu/savingspecialplaces>

Mail and Correspondence: None of significance.

Adjournment: By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

NEXT MEETING: March 11, 2024