

Pembroke Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2015

In attendance: Ammy Heiser (Chair), Carol Bertsimas (Vice), Ayn Whytemare (Sec.), Brian Mrazik (Monitoring), Kevin Krebs (PB), David Baril. Absent: Steve Fowler, Mike Crockwell (BOS)

1. Call to Order @7pm

2. Conservation Lands:

- a. **Hillman** Ammy monitored with Sarah Pillsbury, since farmer Jay Pritchard is helping Lee Grimes conditions have improved on the site.
- b. **White Sands** Still need to put up Beach sign.
- c. **Ames Brook** "No Motor Vehicle" sign gets knocked down and someone puts back up. Many people seem to be checking out the property.
- d. Carol monitored Beck. Brendan Fish storing construction material on conservation land. Still mowing and continuing to use Conservation land well beyond established property boundaries. Additional slash behind 431 and 435 Terrie Drive, including filling up a drainage ditch. Need to send letters to ask them to remove. Should go out with a few of us with tapes and range finder to establish missing pins.

ACTION ITEM: Brian will draft letter for Terrie drive residents, Ayn will check with Everett Hodges to see what action was taken with Mr. Fish previously.

3. Monitoring Update Ammy will do Frost.

4. Review and Approve Minutes~ November 9th Ammy moved we accept the minutes as amended, Carol seconded. All in favor, Kevin abstained.

5. Planning Board Applications Nothing of note.

6. DES Letters and Applications

- a. **Northern Pass** Ammy reviewed what she could that was relevant to Pembroke. (Letter attached) Rick VandePol mentioned that some of the wetlands impacted should be designated as "Prime". Also lines crossing Ames and Pettingill brook and 2 rivers adversely impacting them. Possible increase activity of off road vehicles.
- b. State has ruled that the application for NP is "complete". If we want to continue to offer opinion on this issue we need to have the BOS declare us an "intervenor" which includes us in the continuing conversation. December 15th the SEC is having a public comment session in Concord.

6. Potential Acquisitions:

- a. **Sixth Range Rd Parcel** Has heard nothing further.

7. Other Business

a. Brownfields Program Leanne Atwell (former member) now working on this project in Nashua for DES. Wants to know if there is anyone who wants to serve on a board that will meet quarterly to get input from local residents.

ACTION ITEM: Ammy will thank her for the opportunity but no one interested at this time. Please keep us in the loop if anything comes up in Pembroke.

b. Other David Baril will get back on the Technical Review Committee.

8. Mail and Correspondences Various and sundry offerings.

9. Adjournment 8:18pm. Now David won't have to miss his football game.

NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 11TH

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee

Attention: Pamela Monroe

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, NH, 03301

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Attention: Timothy Drew

29 Hazen Drive

Concord, NH 03301

Dear Ms. Monroe and Mr. Drew

The Pembroke Conservation Commission (PCC) received the Wetlands Permit Application for the Northern Pass on October 21st. The PCC held its regular monthly meeting on November 9th and so we are past the deadline to respond. The application was accompanied by thousands of pages of technical data. There isn't enough time to review the copious information as it relates to our Town in the allotted time and so we are requesting an extension to review this application and comment responsibly. 6 of the 7 members of the PCC were present at our meeting and all were very concerned about the environmental impact of this project.

Northern Pass will travel more than 6 miles through Pembroke and cross more than

50 wetland units, including several high-value wetland complexes for which the Commission will be seeking Prime Wetland designation in the near future. The major wetland function, support of wetland-dependent wildlife, will be adversely impacted by the new power-line poles and the right-of-way expansion. Direct and permanent impacts to the viability of habitat for certain wildlife species; notably fishers, raccoons, squirrels, neotropical migrant passerines, terrestrial and vernalpool salamanders, and other species that are arboreal dependents; will occur. Mitigation for these impacts should be required as a condition for a wetland permit, and should include the permanent protection of forested-wetland habitat and associated buffers.

The transmission line will also cross the two most significant streams in Pembroke,

Ames Brook and Pettingill Brook, as well as 2 major rivers, the Suncook and Soucook. Pembroke derives its public-water supply from stream-side wells adjacent to these rivers. We are concerned that maintenance of an expanded right-of-way to accommodate Northern Pass will result in an increase in the direct application of herbicides in wetland areas. These chemicals are likely to be transmitted downstream to the detriment of aquatic organisms and existing and potential future water supplies.

An expanded right-of-way, and associated permanent deforestation, will also change the thermal regime of wetlands and watercourses draining the impacted areas, adversely impacting aquatic organisms beyond the immediate area of the power lines. As is clearly evident from past experience, the

permanent land clearing, associated with the right-of-way and its expansion, invites abuse by off-road vehicles leading to soil erosion and the siltation of wetlands and streams, further degrading habitat and water quality.

We believe this project will have major environmental impacts on our State and in our Town and that the timeframes provided for town comment in the

Administrative Rules are inappropriate for a project of this magnitude. We are requesting that someone from your staff attend a site visit to help answer our questions. This will be necessary if we are expected to give a thorough examination of this application.

You can reach me on my cell: 603-568-0021.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ammy Heiser, Chairman of Pembroke Conservation Commission