

PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CC)
Approved Minutes of March 9, 2015 Meeting

Present: Carol Bertsimas, Vice-Chair; Steve Fowler; Vincent Greco, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Representative; Ammy Heiser, Chair; Kevin Krebs, Planning Board (PB) Representative; and Brian Mrazik.

Not Present: David Baril and Ayn Whytemare, Secretary.

Others Present: Rick Van de Poll, Licensed Wetland Scientist

1. **Call to Order** – Ammy called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
2. **Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)** –Rick Van de Poll gave the CC a status report on his progress on the NRI. He has identified and mapped 144 wetland evaluation units in the Town of Pembroke. Further, he has developed evaluation criteria for “Designated Wetlands”, which are those wetlands that warrant further technical analysis and potential designation as “Prime Wetlands” under RSA 482-A:15. Rick has tentatively identified 38 of the 144 units for further evaluation using the “New Hampshire Method”, as specified by NHDES Rule Env-wt 700 for the designation of prime wetlands. Rick provided an example application of this method to one of our wetlands. This process will likely result in the designation of 15-20 highest-value wetlands that the Town should consider for further protection under Town ordinances. Such ordinances typically specify natural-vegetation buffers of various widths around high-value or prime wetlands. Alternative means of protection include acquisition of wetlands by the Town. He suggested several sources of funding for this, including the USDA Wetland Reserve Program, and the NH LCHIP program. Rick stated his plan to complete the NRI by April 30.

The CC discussed the planned presentation of findings and recommendations at the conclusion of the NRI. The CC, PB, and Zoning Board should give high priority to attending this presentation. Kevin advised that May 12 would be the best date for the PB. **Action Items:** Kevin will ask David Jodoin to schedule a 1 hour presentation & question/answer session on the NRI at the May 12 PB meeting. Ammy will send invitations to other Boards and Committees.

3. Conservation Lands

- a. **Butterfield** – Ammy reported that clear-cutting of the diseased red pine plantation has been completed. Saw logs down to 7” in diameter were harvested, so Ron Klemarczyk expects the revenue to the Town to exceed his original estimate of \$1,000. Ron stated that he will follow up with any necessary slash clean-up. Carol questioned whether the CC should preserve the entrance to the skid landing as a parking area for the conservation area. The CC discussed the pros and cons of this and did not reach a consensus.
- b. **Beacon Hill** – Ammy talked to Nik Coates of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions regarding the feasibility of selling the potential house lot on the Beacon Hill parcel. Nick thought that the purchase of the area with conservation funds may make subdivision and resale of the lot an expensive and time consuming legal process. He

suggested that the CC contact the NH Municipal Association to get a legal opinion on this. **Action Item:** Ammy will contact the NH Municipal Association.

- c. **Hillman** – Ammy mentioned that the Five Rivers monitoring report for this parcel noted that the corn crop was not harvested. Ammy has also received inquiries from another farmer who was interested in leasing the land. She had talked to Lee Grimes, the current lessee, who stated that the harvest was not done due to equipment failure. We have subsequently learned that Lee's barn collapsed due to the heavy snow, and his ability to plant in the spring is unknown. The CC decided that Lee should be contacted regarding his plans and capabilities before initiating any action to obtain a new lessee. **Action Item:** Ammy will contact Lee Grimes.

- 4. **Minutes of February 16, 2015 meeting** – Ammy moved that the draft minutes of the January 16, 2005 meeting be accepted, as written. Carol seconded. Four voted in favor, Kevin abstained.

5. Planning Board Applications

- a. “Krazy Kids” site on Rt. 106. Since no physical changes were being proposed to the site, the CC had no comment.
- b. Clean Energy site on Pembroke St. A small modular building (36' x 10') and a large (40') container are being added. The CC expressed concern about the contents of the building and container relative to hazardous materials being placed in the aquifer district. Kevin stated that the PB now had adequate procedures and enforceable rules in place to address this issue. The CC decided to defer to the PB on this issue.
- c. Pitco Site. Pitco is proposing to convert its former warehouse to a manufacturing site and add a 544 sq.ft. concrete pad for a nitrogen tank. The CC questioned whether the change of use would involve an increase in risk of aquifer contamination, but deferred to the PB for reasons discussed in (b) above.
- d. Proposed Brewery on Glass St. The CC has no comment on this small facility.

- 6. **NHDES Actions** – No new items were submitted for comment.

- 7. **Potential Land Acquisitions** – Ammy went to the February 17 BOS meeting to express our interest in acquiring 4 parcels of land taken by the Town for delinquent taxes. An abutter also expressed interest in purchasing one of the parcels. The BOS agreed to table this item until July. In June the Town will have clear title to two more properties. Dave Jodoin will discuss the issue with the Town Attorney and the BOS will make a decision in July on how they would like to dispose of the properties.

- 8. **Other Business** – The CC decided to hold its Annual Monitoring Day on Saturday April 11 at 9:00 AM (Rain Date, Sunday April 12). No concerted effort will be undertaken to seek volunteers.

- 9. **Mail and Correspondence** – No significant items.

10. Adjournment: Ammy moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 PM. Carol seconded. All voted in favor.

Submitted by Brian Mrazik, Secretary Pro Tem.

Next Meeting – April 13th.