

PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2022

In attendance: Ammy Heiser (Chair), Carol Bertsimas (Vice), Brian Mrazik (Secretary), Ayn Whytemare, Tom Gallo, Wendy Weisiger, Karen Yeaton (BOS Rep) Kevin Foss (PB Rep),

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:01pm

Planning Board Applications: Major Site Plan Application #22-106, Tax Map 632, Lot 10 located at 52 Sheep Davis Road and Special Use Permit Application SUP-AC #22-316 for construction over the aquifer. The Applicant proposes to construct a 12,480 SF building addition with associated stormwater and site improvements. The CC discussed the proposed action and expressed concern about the discharge of the proposed detention basin directly into a water body, when retention and infiltration of stormwater is likely to be a viable option. Since the proposed use of the property does not involve the use of potentially hazardous materials over the Suncook aquifer, the CC has no objections to the project.

The CC discussed a letter sent by Pembroke Water Works to its customers regarding polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in water obtained from Town wells in the Soucook aquifer. Ammy will ask PWW to attend a future CC meeting to discuss the issue and whether zoning ordinance changes may be warranted to further protect the aquifer.

NHDES Letters and Applications: The CC received a copy of the DES approval letter for the proposed driveway crossing of wetlands at 245 Pembroke Hill Rd. The Special Use Permit for this driveway was rejected by the PB because other development sites on this property were accessible without the need for a wetland crossing.

Review and Approve Minutes September 12, 2022 Meeting: Ayn motioned to accept the draft minutes as submitted. Carol seconded. All voted in favor except Tom, who abstained.

Conservation Lands:

1. Deed Reviews: Atty. Stephen Whitley responded to Ammy's inquiry regarding the feasibility of alternative methods to expedite the incorporation of additional conservation protection in deeds for the properties lacking adequate protection. Stephen recommended that the CC avoid trying to accomplish this by a single action at Town Meeting because of the unique aspects of each case and the complexity involved. Stephen recommended that he complete review of all the cases before formulating a plan to proceed. Ammy will advise Stephen to continue with the reviews.

2. Monitoring Update: Ayn volunteered to take over the lead on the management of monitoring activities.

Ayn is continuing to monitor the **White Sands** conservation area and recently visited the newly acquired lands annexed to this conservation area. A new abutter in one of the camps along the Merrimack River had encroachments involving cutting trees, brush disposal, and baited traps.

Ayn sent a letter apprising the landowner of these encroachments and the need to cease such activities.

Ammy was contacted again by the Meet Me In Suncook (MMIS) organization regarding the plan for removal of vegetation, including invasive bittersweet, along the Suncook River shoreline at the **Robert Frost Park (Girard parcel)**. This is an esthetic issue that is complicated by the presence of invasive plants that cannot be legally moved after cutting. Ammy contacted the mowing contractor that DPW used for this area but the contractor was unwilling to do the work. Ammy will contact MMIS to advise that they are free to cut the vegetation down (preferably at the base) but that the cuttings must be left on site. Unfortunately, continued manual or mechanical control will be required to keep the area open, as the use of herbicides is not appropriate for this streamside site.

Other Business:

1. **Range Roads:** Ammy was contacted by Kevin Gagne of the NH Trail Dawgs to advise that the organization had received a \$55,000 grant for trail improvement. They plan to focus this effort in the vicinity of Seventh Range and Thompson Roads. Construction is scheduled to occur in the late October/November timeframe. The CC will contact Kevin to request that future work of this nature be performed in mid- to late summer, when possible, to avoid use of heavy equipment on saturated soils.
2. **New Acquisitions:** Ammy spoke with Joann Gelinas regarding her interest in having approximately 65 acres of the Gelinas Farm incorporated in a conservation easement to be held by the CC. Joann advised of a change in plan whereby the buyers will take the lead in preparation of the easement documents. Wendy encouraged the CC to use a land trust organization to hold the easement, if possible, due to the potential liability issues if the easement is not enforced appropriately.
3. **Center Hill Site Visit:** Ayn announced that the Pembroke Historical Society is hosting a historic walk on this conservation parcel to be held on Saturday October 29 (rain date Oct. 30). The walk will review the historical use of this property, including the tuberculosis sanatorium that existed there in the early 20th century. A former resident of the sanatorium is planned to attend. The group will meet at the dead end of 3rd Range Road just northwest of the Pembroke Hill intersection at 1:00 PM.
4. **NHACC Annual Meeting:** This will be held at Pembroke Academy on Saturday November 5. Ammy encouraged members to attend and noted that CC would cover the fee for member registrations.

Mail and Correspondence: None of significance.

Adjournment: By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

NEXT MEETING ON NOVEMBER 14