



TOWN OF BOW

Conservation Commission

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Approved as amended on March 14, 2022

Bow Conservation Commission

February 28, 2022

Minutes

The working meeting of the Bow Conservation Commission was held on Monday February 28, 2022, at 7:00 PM in Room C of the Municipal Office building at 10 Grandview Road. Chair Sandy Crystall called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members present: Sandy Crystall, Alexander Grene, Bob Ball, and Dik Dagavarian. Tina Blanks was excused.

Items for Consideration/Discussion

Proposed subdivision- Parcel 13-4-82, Wetland CUP #402-22, re: Macauley OS-RD #502-22

Jason Lopez from Keach-Nordstrom Associates introduced himself and said the developer is Cherry Hill Homes. Mr. Lopez went over the 17-lot conventional yield plan and proposed open space plan for the 64.6 acre parcel off Page Road. and the associated data gathering. Gove Environmental had performed the wetlands delineation, soils mapping, and wildlife habitat study. Mr. Chris Danforth (present, in the audience) was retained to work on the NHDES wetlands permit. Mr. Lopez noted that vernal pools are not shown on the plan as the field work has not been done for that yet, but it is planned. NH Heritage Bureau DataCheck found Blanding's turtle in the area. , There were no historic properties affected by this development according to the NH Division of Historic Resources. Mr. Lopez also noted that the prime wetland along Londonderry Branch Turnpike needs to be looked at in terms of whether its buffer would affect the buildable lot area. Mr. Lopez noted that a sitewalk has been scheduled by the Planning Board for March 12th at the property to look at the yield plan layout. Mr. Lopez also showed the proposed open space, and how it would connect to the other Town- owned conservation land. He also spoke about the existing snowmobile trails on the property that would go away and proposed location for access to the existing trail system that would remain so that connectivity remains.

Ms. Crystall explained how the review process works for the Planning Board and that the scheduled initial sitewalk was for the yield plan only. Then discussion ensued about the yield plan features and whether it could be considered reasonable and buildable. Mr. Lopez addressed some of the issues like the road and driveway profiles that all conform to the regulations, although, he noted would require some cut and fill. He noted that the well radii are within each lot. He said that the wetland and buffer impacts for the yield plan and for the open space plan differ, with the latter being a reduction. He then answered questions about location of utilities (asked by Mr. Grene), Mr. Ball indicated his concern about the wetland buffers being very close to house locations on some lots contributing to subsequent buffer disturbance. Mr. Ball felt that there was a large impact on the wetlands and buffers based on the information in the buildable calculations table. He noted that the wetland feeds into White Brook, which has native brook trout and is a Conservation Focus Area.

Mr. Lopez described this project's similarity to the Hamilton Court subdivision, the proposed sloped granite curbing, closed drainage, water treatment pond, and sumps. He noted that the bulk of the buffer impact was due to the driveways on the north side of the proposed road. Mr. Lopez noted the AOT (alteration of terrain) review. Ms. Crystall asked about how the proposed project will not impede

the wildlife to and from the vernal pool. Mr. Lopez described the crossings 24-inch x 75 feet RCP, two pipes, about 80 feet about 90 feet 48-inch RCP sink one foot in. Fish and Game will provide input on the closed drainage. Ms. Crystall noted that the index in the Wildlife Habitat Assessment noted a Part 3 Evaluation, but it did not seem to be there. Ms. Crystall mentioned the town rules require a functional assessment (vs. the wildlife habitat assessment provided) and mentioned the Corps highway methodology. From the audience Mr. Danforth (not identified) noted that he will be conducting a functional assessment for the wetland permit. It was noted that the Conservation Commission will attend the site walk on March 12th and will be discussing this further at its March 14th meeting.

NRI - Final report and StoryMaps now on BCC web page

<https://www.bownh.gov/783/Natural-Resources-Inventory>

Chair Crystall mentioned the NRI report hard copies should be coming soon and the electronic version is posted on the NRI newly created tab under the Conservation Commission webpage. The numbering of the Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs), in particular CFAs # 4 and 5 was raised by Mr. Ball. Ms. Crystall noted that she will review it.

Commission web pages- progress

Members discussed the recently made draft changes to the Commission webpages. Discussions focused on modifications to existing tabs and additional tabs (Natural Resources Inventory, Get Involved). Ms. Crystall noted that she will keep working on editing and creating more content for the newly proposed tabs that have not been addressed yet.

Buffer tags

Ms. Crystall noted that she had received an email from Bryan Westover about the need to purchase more wetland buffer tags. She showed the current tags that are used, which are green and say 'do not disturb'. Members discussed the camouflaged nature of the green color of the existing tags and the language that did not make clear what kind of disturbances are prohibited. Ms. Crystall noted that the tree cutting can only be prohibited in the buffer if that is set in the subdivision and site plan approval. An example of buffer markers from Chester was provided in the packet. Discussion continued about different designs and language for buffer tags to be used and how many are needed. Ms. Crystall said she will talk to Bryan Westover about it. Discussion about buffers and under what conditions the Planning Board has the authority to specify them as "no-cut" buffers was discussed. It was also mentioned that some of the buffers approved by the Planning Board are perimeter buffers, not wetland buffers. Also discussed were other colors (a red marker looks like a warning sign), use of reflective markers and markers for prime wetland buffers. Ms. Crystall will follow-up with Bryan Westover about ordering some of the current design and the commission will look at adding a no-cut buffer marker.

Info

- **Chadwick-Pushee warrant article for easement (town meeting March 9).**

Ms. Crystall said that she will be making a presentation at the town meeting about it and will talk to Bow Open Spaces about being prepared to answer questions at the town meeting since they are going to be holding an easement on the property.

- **Robertson trail - final wetlands report - trails expert.**

Ms. Crystall said that she had emailed with a couple of trails experts and the State Trails Bureau. She may arrange to go see the trail with an expert. She will let everyone know when. . She also noted that the final wetlands report was available.

- **Turee Pond - milfoil grant /contract status.**

Ms. Crystall talked about the Town Manager had signed the contract. She also noted that the NHDES Turee Pond Long Term Management Plan was part of the packet and members discussed some errors in it. Mr. Ball mentioned the list of plants was incomplete. The possibility of creating and adding a specific plant list for Turee Pond will be suggested. Ms. Crystall will bring those up to NHDES.

- **Easement monitoring - w/OPD.**

Ms. Crystall participated a part of the State's easement monitoring with Charlotte Harding. She noted that the OPD monitoring report was also part of the packet.

- **ARM (Aquatic Resource Mitigation) Fund Grant announcement.**

Ms. Crystall mentioned the \$1.5 million available for the Merrimack watershed for restoration or land protection projects. She described the type of projects that are eligible and she had emailed with the Director of Public Works to see if he has any shovel-ready projects that may qualify. The ARM fund grant pre-application is due in May and the final application is due in August.

Wetlands training – part 1

Ms. Crystall conducted the first part of wetlands training that she had prepared for the Conservation Commission members.

Upcoming

- PB/CC Initial site walk Sat., 3/12 for Parcel 13-4-82/ Wetland CUP #402-22, re: Macauley OS-RD #502-22
- Saving Special Places Conference- Friday, April 1 & Saturday, April 2 (virtual) - Register
Keynote speakers:
4/1: Robin Wall Kimmerer- author, *Braiding Sweet Grass*
4/2: Carolyn Finney- <https://diversityinconservation.org/speaker/carolyn-finney/>

Minutes

The minutes for 1/24/22 were reviewed and edits were suggested. *Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Ball and seconded by Mr. Dagavarian. All voted in favor*

After a motion by Bob Ball for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Dagavarian, meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Next meeting: March 14, 2022 - 7:00 PM