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## Conservation Commission Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES JULY 26, 2023

Hanover Town Hall, 550 Hanover St.

2nd Floor Meeting Room and via Zoom as per instruction above.

**Approved 8/30/23**



#### **6:00 PM**

A Roll Call of Members resulted in the following Members being present:

Vice Chairman Lisa Satterwhite, Hearing Officer Robert Sennett, Members James Vaille and Mahendra Patel

Members not Present: Chairman Brian McLoone, Associate Member Otis (Duke) Magoun

Others Present: Conservation Agent Sandra MacFarlane and IT Host Quentin Collins

Vice Chair Satterwhite stepped in as Chairman for the evening and welcomed all present.

#### **I. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Acting Chairman Satterwhite made the following announcements:

1. This meeting is being recorded and has remote participation.
2. Great River Race event takes place on July 30, 2023 this year, gathering point is Luddam's Ford Park and is sponsored by North and South River Watershed Association.
3. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 6 PM<sup>1</sup>

#### **II. UPDATE: Peter Dillon, Sr. Geologist, Tetra Tech- Wetland Restoration at Nat'l Fireworks Site**

Mr. Dillon presented information regarding the many potentially hazardous and hazardous items found within a +2.5 acre area on the Fireworks Site referred to as *Wetland D* and the *Marsh Upland Area (MUA)*. This included benign munitions, unexpended hazardous munitions, glass bottles, broken glass, various types of pipes, and other metal debris from munitions testing and research carried out at this site since 1907. He noted that upon further investigation, all items were analyzed, categorized, packed appropriately, and removed from the site to licensed disposal facilities. Due to these and other potentially hazardous substances, the entire wetland and vicinity had to be investigated to ground water level and below in some areas. He added that they are currently in the process of restoring Wetland D. This included combining some of the cleaned and processed materials from the site into an organic mixture that would serve well as a replacement organic soil for the wetland. He reported on a recent site inspection with the Conservation Agent and Tetra Tech's Wetland Consultant during which the perfectly level excavated surface of the restored soils were necessarily disturbed into micro hills and valleys to more closely resemble natural wetland conditions. (This, to the chagrin of the excavation crew- but necessary). He noted that by integrating stumps, dead trees, boulders and similar into the area, it would naturalize areas of habitat for the many returning wildlife species. He commended the Wetland Consultant and Conservation Agent for their recommendations and suggestions during this process. Several pictures confirmed that wetland grasses, various turtles, frogs, and birds are already

<sup>1</sup> Commission's 2023 Annual Schedule:

January 25	February 22	March 29	April 26	May 31-cancelled	June 7	June 28
July 26	August 30	September 27	October 25	November 29	December 27	

returning to the wetland, despite the fact that the +1,400 native plants and trees had just been planted days before. The Commission thanked Mr. Dillon for his efforts and scheduled an additional site inspection for next week for the Agent and Members.

### III. ACTION ITEMS *(from Agent's Report)*:

1. Eagle Scout Presentation: Eagle Scout Candidate Alex Wing presented his project to the Commission and asked for their support. He explained that the trails adjacent to the Middle School were well used, especially by the High School and Jr. High track team members and were dangerous because of the large tree roots protruding out of the ground. All agreed, and related instances where persons had been hurt during practices or just walking were recounted. Scout Wing's project involved covering the trail with 4"-6" of wood chips with boards along the sides to keep it in place. A brief discussion ensued regarding the method for securing the boards and other construction aspects of the project. The Commission agreed that this project would have community benefits and voiced their full support.

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Sennett and Patel, it was voted 4-0-0 as follows to support the project as presented: LS-aye, RS-aye, JV-aye, MP-aye.

### **6:15 PM**

#### IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **114 Cheryl Ln., CDOA-23-4**- RDA- *for residential septic repair in RFA*

PRESENT: James Garfield, PE, Morse Engineering Co., Inc., Applicant's Representative,  
Erica Arrington, Property Owner

DISCUSSION: Mr. Garfield presented a plan dated 6/23/23 showing the abandonment (pump, crush, fill with clean sand) of a failed septic system and the installation of a new Title V residential septic disposal system within Riverfront Area to the Indian Head River. He pointed out that all work was confined to outer riparian zone to the river and +105 ft. from the on-site portions of the adjacent bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW). The Agent noted that the leaching field was positioned as far from the river and the BVW as possible on this site.

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Sennett and Vaille, it was voted 4-0-0 to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination of Applicability (NOI not required) as follows: LS-aye, RS-aye, JV-aye, MP-aye.

### **6:32 PM** Member James Vaille recused himself from the next hearing.

2. **1518 Hanover St., COOC-23-12, SE 31-1276**- NOI- *for septic upgrade- See Applicant's request to continue to September 26, 2023 (hearings start at 6:15 PM).*

PRESENT: James Vaille, Property Owner

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Sennett and Patel, it was voted 3-0-0 to continue the hearing to September 27, 2023 at 6:15 PM as follows: LS-aye, RS-aye, MP-aye.

### **6:35 PM** Member James Vaille returned to the meeting.

3. **139 Gray's Place (aka 0 Henry's Ln.), ANRD-23-1, SE 31-1275**- ANRAD- *for wetland delineation review only- See Applicant's request to continue to December 27, 2023<sup>2</sup> (hearings start at 6:15 PM).*

PRESENT: none

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Sennett and Patel, it was voted 4-0-0 to continue the hearing to December 27, 2023 at 6:15 PM as follows: LS-aye, RS-aye, JV-aye, MP-aye.

<sup>2</sup> The December meeting date is subject to change. Any change to meeting dates will be posted on the website.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE: Reviewed with minimal comments.

## 1. Administrative (Minor Acts) Permits/Events/Other:

- a. CHPD-23-13 - 15, *for training events at HPD Firing Range in July*
- b. CMA-23-7, 164 Mann's Dr.- *for septic upgrade 95 ft. from BVW*
- c. CMA-23-8, 25 Chestnut St.- *for installation of setback markers and sono tubes for deck ext. in BZ to BVW*
- d. CDMA-23-3, 194 Circuit St.- *for septic upgrade 76 ft. from BVW*
- e. CDMA-23-4, 132 Old Farm Rd.- *for septic & laundry pits removal in RFA for new septic +208' from stream*
- f. CSI-23-6 thru 10, *for general inspections*

## 2. Minutes- 6/28/23 meeting

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Members Sennett and Patel, it was voted 4-0-0 to approve the minutes as follows: LS-aye, RS-aye, JV-aye, MP-aye.

3. Agent's Report, including presentation by Eagle Scout Candidate Alex Wing (see above).  
Remainder of report was met with minimal comment.4. Other - *Those items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting-* none

**7:00 PM** Upon a motion and second made by Members Sennett and Vaille it was voted 4-0-0 to close the meeting as follows: LS-aye, RS-aye, JV-aye, MP-aye.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
Sandra D. MacFarlane, Conservation Agent, CDMI

## Documents provided at meeting:

- 7/26/23 Agenda
- 114 Cheryl RDA application packet
- 1518 NOI application packet
- 139 Gray's Place ANRAD application packet
- Admin items as listed in Section V. 1. a – f above
- 6/28/23 draft Minutes
- 7/26/23 Agent's Report