

TILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 21, 2018

MINUTES

Members present: Chuck Mitchell, Chair; Bob Hardy; Helen Hanks; Jim Cropsey; Paul Rushlow; Jon Scanlon; Ben Wadleigh; and Kathi Mitchell

Guests: Katherine Dawson; Erin Lambert; Thomas Meade; Dari Sassan

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. M&B Tractor** – Erin Lambert, representing Nobis Engineering and the owner, explained that there will be an 11,700 sq. ft. cold storage facility as well as outside storage. They have an updated site plan and a stormwater permit from NH DES, so the next step is to restore the wetland buffer that was disturbed. The TCC members questioned where exactly were the wetlands and how were they delineated. Ms. Lambert referenced Alden Beauchemin of Hooksett as the wetland scientist, but no specific details to answer the question. The commissioners referenced a culvert under the entry road that crosses wetlands and asked how it was to be protected. There was a discussion about dimensions of the disturbed buffer, which Ms. Lambert will research. No intent to cut was ever filed even though the commissioners noted that they had observed large piles of cut conifers. Ms. Lambert said no trees had been cut recently. It was stated by the commissioners that 10 cords of wood or 10,000 square feet of pulpwood would require an intent-to-cut permit, and it was clear that more than 10 cords of wood had been cut. Discussion continued regarding the bio-retention area and the treatment swale. The AOT permit is for single stage, two drains. Water will be captured and treated in the bio-retention pond. There were a number of comments about the need for an oil-water separator given the extremely large inventory on the site. The commissioners had an array of questions about the design and structural integrity of the proposed detention pond and swale. There was a series of questions about the earthen dam and its 12-inch culvert, given that quite a bit more water will be entering the pond as a result of this project. A collapse of the earthen dam could be catastrophic for the community. In addition, the owner has been storing equipment in the wetlands buffer as well as next to Ice House Pond; the Commissioners stated that this type of activity must stop. Ms. Lambert did not have data to answer questions about snow storage and fueling concerns at this time, but she stated that she would get back to the Commission. She spoke about plans to replace the trees in the clear-cut buffer with native plants and grass as well as some tall shrubs. The Commissioners had questions about the amount of pervious vs. impervious surface area. Ms. Lambert indicated that the owner wants to join the two lots at a later date. In addition, asked for information about organic materials filling the swale and the retention pond. Will they be self-cleaning, or will they have to be maintained and/or replaced on a regular basis? Is there any indication how long these structures will last? Since there were a number of unanswered questions, it was decided that Ms. Lambert would come to the June 18 TCC meeting to provide answers to the various questions and concerns.

2. Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN) – Thomas Mead – Mr. Mead reported that all 5 communities (Meredith, Laconia, Sanbornton, Tilton, and Belmont) have provided support for herbicide treatment of milfoil and for the diver program to deal with milfoil issues in the watershed.. The WWN has received a state of NH grant and is also a registered 501c3 organization. They are contacting businesses and foundations for additional support. They are sponsoring a weed watching training on June 9. They have a logo for their group. They are sponsoring Lake Cleanup Day later in the summer and will hold their annual meeting on July 29 at Belmont Beach. There was a question about how to contact interested parties on Silver Lake. A suggestion was to contact Peter Fogg.

3. Approval of April minutes:

Helen made the motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

4. Old Business:

- a) The Checklist for Presenting Projects to the TCC is on the website <http://www.tiltoncc.org>
- b) The town of Tilton owns a parcel of land at the entrance to Bittern Lane (Belknap Registry of Deeds Book 1242 Page 715). It would seem logical for the town to have this property surveyed and marked clearly. Helen made a motion for the town to do this, Kathi seconded it, and all were in favor. The Commissioners also thought it would be a good idea to place boulders along the edge of the property to prevent any misunderstanding about the property line. It would also ensure that no owner ever again pushes snow into the buffer or the pond.

5. New Business:

- a) Natural Resource section of the Master Plan – members received a copy of the last (and unapproved) section for the purpose of updating and amending it. It may be a possibility that the TCC can meet in a social setting to make any needed changes.
- b) Soils and Stream restoration workshop at NHTI today was attended by Chuck and Kathi and was very informative. The secretary will send links to the sites to the members.
- c) Salmon Run and THOP issues with Public Works were discussed. (1) It was decided that it would be reasonable for Public Works to mow a path 48 inches from the tree line along the river. (2) There should be no weed-whacking along the cedar fence by the road. (3) Once a month - after notification- mowing in the Conservation Area starting in mid July. (4) No more mulch at THOP but cleaning the parking lot of trash would be helpful. (5) The TCC will discuss what budgetary implications will be required.
- d) There appear to be problems with debris from Wal-Mart on Sherwood Drive.
- e) Jim reported on a bird-banding workshop that he attended. He also explained about the problems connected with New England cottontail rabbit habitats.
- f) Jon reported on environmental violations with Casella in Bethlehem which might also be the case at the Belmont site. There were questions about water testing.

- g) Bob Hardy noted that someone seemed to be dumping leaves in the wetlands around the town sheds. Helen made a motion which was seconded by Bo to ask the Selectboard to look into the matter. The motion was approved.
- h) Ben spoke about the proposed School Street property having the septic system located in the wrong place (potentially within a wetland) and reminded the Commissioners that the wetlands issues and strong potential to impact his property negatively have not yet been resolved.

6. Correspondence: none

Helen made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 pm; Kathi seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Mitchell, Secretary