

MINUTES OF THE NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021 – 5:00 p.m. (Macomber Room)

Seeking recommendation to take down two trees at Nicole Beaurang, 320 Portsmouth Avenue, Map 14, Lot 13.

Members Present: Conni White, Chair, Beth Barnhorst, Iain Moodie, Jim Rini.

Members Absent: Tom Chamberlin, Lynn McCarthy, Vice-Chair.

Others Present: Nicole Beaurang, Russ Bookholz, Town Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer, Greg Lynch, Jim Manning.

Chair White called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

1. Applications.

A. Seeking recommendation to take down two trees at Nicole Beaurang, 320 Portsmouth Avenue, Map 14, Lot 13.

Nicole Beaurang explained that she is submitting everything to the Conservation Commission first before submitting the Shoreland Permit application to the NHDES. This way, everything will be submitted all at once. Chair White stated that she spoke with Russ Bookholz, Town Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer, and they believe that the Shoreland Permit will be kicked back for revision and resubmission. Chair White recommends using a wetland scientist, who would assess Ms. Beaurang's property and help her complete the necessary forms for the DES. Jim Manning noted that the plan for the driveway that the Commission previously recommended for approval has not changed, but he and Ms. Beaurang would like to add the removal of two spruce trees to the DES application.

Mr. Bookholz went through the points system with Ms. Beaurang and Mr. Manning. Each 25 foot wide by 50 foot deep quadrant must have 25 points. The points are based on the size of the tree. Mr. Bookholz calculated that the first tree the Applicants wanted to remove has a value of 15 points and is the only one in its quadrant. The second tree to be removed is also worth 15 points and is the only tree in its quadrant. Since the Applicants do not currently have 25 points per quadrant, if they want to remove the two trees, they will need to meet the requirement of 25 points per quadrant. Mr. Bookholz also noted that the spruce trees have deeper root systems than pine trees. If the Applicants seek to remove the trees, they are only allowed to cut down to the ground level, and would not be able to excavate out the root system. Mr. Manning asked if bushes count for points. Mr. Bookholz responded that they have very little point value, so it would not be possible to remove trees and replace with bushes.

Mr. Rini asked why the Applicants want the spruce trees removed. Mr. Manning responded that they are not aesthetically pleasing and also constantly rain pitch and create a mess. Mr. Bookholz explained that it is legal to trim trees one-third of the way up.

Mr. Manning asked how the quadrants are determined. Mr. Bookholz stated that the grids are measured from the property line at the waterfront. Every 25 feet of waterfront and 50 feet deep is a quadrant. Even if the two trees that Ms. Beaurang would like removed were in the same quadrant, she would not be allowed to take either one of them down due to the point system.

Chair White recommended that the Applicants plant evergreen shrubs under the trees where the sap falls. Mr. Bookholz noted that you cannot trim brush below three feet in height. Chair White also recommended that the Applicants complete the DES application and then email Eben Lewis of the DES to see if he could do a site visit and possibly give further recommendations.

Ms. Barnhorst motioned to not recommend the removal of two trees at the property of Nicole Beaurang, 320 Portsmouth Avenue (Tax Map 14, Lot 13), without replacing the trees with 25 points for each of the two quadrants, or without satisfying the DES woodland buffer grid system. Mr. Moodie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve minutes from September 7, 2021 meeting and October 4, 2021 visit.

Ms. Barnhorst made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 7, 2021 meeting as submitted. Mr. Moodie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rini made a motion to approve the minutes dated October 4, 2021 as submitted. Ms. Barnhorst seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business.

Chair White explained that at the most recent Planning Board meeting, an issue arose regarding the application dates on the landscaping plans for Paul and Donna Urbanek. A planting plan was in the set given to the Conservation Commission at the March meeting, and was included in a resubmitted set at the August meeting. There were discrepancies in the plans that the Commission last reviewed in August and what was presented at the October Planning Board meeting. It was concluded that the Urbaneks must come before the Conservation Commission with a new landscape plan, and Chair White will add a clarifying note to the file to accompany the plans.

Chair White opened discussion about the Commission's online Application Instructions. Ms. Barnhorst will work on revising language on the Town website to make the application instructions and process clearer.

Chair White distributed New Hampshire's Municipal Conservation Commissions Handbook. Members will review chapters in the handbook and make an executive summary.

4. Adjourn.

Mr. Rini moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Barnhorst seconded. The motion carried, unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rumph
Secretary