

**NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES May 2, 2017- 5PM**

Present: Lynn McCarthy, Chair, Jim Rini, Ron Pascale, Beth Barnhorst, Bill Marshall, and Tracy Degnan.

1. Approve Minutes.

Approval of March minutes was deferred until next meeting.

2. Work Session/Applications: None.

3. Site Walk of Crosby property:

Chair McCarthy announced that the Commission was going to view the Crosby property this evening to meet with Dan Mello of Seacoast Tree Company to learn how grid systems work as applied to tree cutting. He will explain how many trees can be cut along the wetland buffer, depending upon the size, number and density.

Prior to leaving for the property, Chair McCarthy requested that Tracy Degnan of RCPC give an update to the Commission regarding invasive plant control in New Castle. She reported visiting the Pit Lane area which needed spot treatment and some spraying, but overall is in much better shape. She also plans to go back to River Road, Great Island Common, and other areas to deal with swallow wart. She will also go back to the Lavenger Creek area, but stated that the phragmites are under control on the salt marsh. She presented a small invoice for work done in January.

Tracy reminded the Commission of the conference "Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience to be held May 16,2017 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center, Greenland, NH. Topics include:

- Differentiate green infrastructure terms and concepts.
- Identify the ecological, economic, and societal benefits of green infrastructure.
- Recognize the wide variety of scales of approaches referred to as green infrastructure.
- Identify new or existing planning processes suitable for integrating green infrastructure techniques.
- Connect with local green infrastructure activities and experts.

The conference is sponsored by the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and is an excellent opportunity to learn more about protecting coastal resources with green infrastructure as opposed to rock and stone walls, riprap, etc.

Tracy encouraged the Commission to continue to do educational outreach to the Island population.

Tracy mentioned that Steve Tabbutt, Director of DPW had asked her if she could remedy the situation near the DPW building which is being overrun by buckthorn and multi-flora rose. She had dealt with this last year but he is requesting another treatment. The cost is approximately \$350.00 and Tracy advised him she would bring this up at this meeting of the Conservation Commission. Beth Barnhorst asked why funds from the gate receipts at the Common could not be used to treat these invasive plants. Discussion ensued about the federal requirements associated with the Common which restrict how the funds are spent, and also about a particular trust fund which may be available. Beth agreed to follow up on this, but the Commission authorized Tracy to go ahead with the necessary treatment with the month.

Jim Rini thanked Beth for her work on Green Waste Day in getting the posters put up in strategic spots. She will take over this function to assist Jim. There was general discussion about the need for aerial photographs of all wetlands. Chair McCarthy is arranging to have the Lavenger Creek area photographed shortly.

Commission members left for the viewing around 5:30 PM and will return to resume discussions regarding Town Meeting Day, and how the Commission can do educational outreach on that day.

The Commissioners returned from their site view of the Crosby property where they met with the arborist, Dan Mello of Durham, and learned about how to apply the grid system to determine how many trees could be removed given the size, number and density of trees (grid count) of a particular property in the wetlands. (See handouts provided to the Commissioners which will be attachments to these minutes). Chair McCarthy noted it is clear there needs to be a permitting process for tree removal and that an enforcement mechanism is needed. Ron Pascal stated there should be a fine schedule depending on the amount and size of the any infractions. All agreed that a tree-cutting permit is needed. Jim Rini suggested that a survey of lots be done to see which ones would be impacted by this permitting process. He noted there are many lots not on wetlands, so there is a need to identify owners who have lots and let them know they may be impacted. He also stated there needs be an objective standard, and expressed his preference for the point system. (See handout attachment). Beth Barnhorst talked about the importance of storm water management, and suggested speaking with UNH to obtain further recommendations. She expressed there are problems with the point system and would like more information. After further discussion Beth suggested a legal review be done of the proposed process, emphasizing that Code Enforcement is a major

issue in holding property owners accountable for complying with whatever process is adopted.

For Town Meeting Day, it was agreed there would be a display of informational materials on invasives and other issues at the Rec Center.

There being no further business to come before the Commission Jim Rini made a Motion to Adjourn which was seconded by Beth. Meeting adjourned.