

**APPROVED**

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**MINUTES OF THE NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – 5:00 p.m. (Town Hall)**

**51A Laurel Lane, Tax Map 11, Lot 26. Applicant: Robert and Cynthia Durkee.**  
**Representative: Ambit Engineering. Proposed: Dock.**

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

**Members Absent:** Tom Chamberlin.

**Others Present:** Tracy Degnan, Rockingham County Conservation District; Paul Urbanek.

**1. Call to Order.**

Chair White called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**2. Approve minutes from October 18, 2022 meeting.**

Mr. Moodie made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 18, 2022 meeting as amended. Chair White seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Applications.**

**A. 51A Laurel Lane, Tax Map 11, Lot 26. Applicant: Robert and Cynthia Durkee.**  
**Representative: Ambit Engineering. Proposed: Dock.**

Chair White stated that this case is being tabled until after the NH DES has made a decision on the application.

**4. New Business.**

**A. Tracy Degnan – RCCD. Update on grant for Pit Lane A and Pit Lane B culvert.**

Tracy Degnan of the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) provided an update on the DES grants for the Pit Lane culverts. The Town received both a coastal resiliency grant for \$40,000 and another grant for \$100,000. RCCD is the contracting agent and has met with project partners, including DES, Department of Public Works, and the Conservation Commission, to come up with a tidal culvert analysis proposal for engineers.

Ms. Degnan explained that these funds are all about being prepared for coastal resiliency. The project partners will be looking at the whole wetland complex to determine what kinds of

alternatives should be developed given freshwater inputs and sea level rises based on the models projected by the University of New Hampshire. Lavenger Creek is connected to Pit Lane and has gone over the road during high tides, so the goal is to be prepared for the future. Ms. Degnan noted that if Route 1A gets flooded, people will need to be routed elsewhere, so the area needs to be up to better standards. Engineers will install data water loggers to determine water heights over the course of ten weeks. Ms. Degnan will work with Chair White to inform abutters and work on public relations to inform the public about the project. RCCD will also work on wetland delineations.

The RCCD received two proposals from two engineering firms. They met with both firms and made a decision to contract with CMA Engineers, Inc., who is the firm designing the next portion of the Safe Path in town. CMA Engineers will work to come up with an engineering design and permit for the best culvert to replace the failing one at Pit Lane. This is still in the beginning stages, and there will be a team meeting followed by an abutter meeting. Ms. Degnan will be going before the Board of Selectman to provide an update as well. She will check in about public outreach events. Chair White will coordinate a walk along the wetland for all Conservation Commission members, which is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29 at 12:00 p.m. David Murray will create a video at the end of the project using a drone to show the tides based on the data produced by the loggers.

The first design stage portion of the grant work must be completed by May 2023. The second part needs to be done by approximately June 2024.

#### **B. Set date for December meeting.**

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

#### **5. Adjourn.**

Mr. Rini moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair White seconded. The motion carried, unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rumph  
*Secretary*