

APPROVED

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MINUTES OF THE NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, July 10th, 2018 – 5:00 p.m. (Town Hall)

Members Present: Lynn McCarthy, Chair, Beth Barnhorst, Darcy Horgan, Brian Mack, Bill Marshall, Ron Pascale, Jim Rini.

Members Absent: Conni White, Vice-Chair, Rebecca Audet, Brandon Tanguay.

Others Present: Peter Hunt, 14 Pit Lane, Maggie Kennedy, P.O. Box 2122, New Castle.

1. Ms. McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and asked attendees to sign in. Ms. Barnhorst made a motion to approve the June minutes as written. Mr. Rini seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Work Session / Applications.

A work session was held for Ms. Barnhorst and Mr. Hunt, of 14 Pit Lane (Tax Map 13, Lot 1), who are seeking to add a 26 foot by 8 foot addition to their home, of which 80 square feet would fall within the 100 foot wetland setback on Pit Lane. Their proposal would allow for a 7 foot by 8 foot farmer's porch to accommodate more family members. The addition would expand the dining room, currently measuring roughly 6 by 12 feet, to approximately 12 by 14 feet in size, which is an average-size dining room. The porch will meet the corner of the addition. No blasting or excavation is necessary for the proposed addition.

Ms. Barnhorst stated that she plans to add a downspout in front of the house, and will install gutters and drip trenches. The existing planting will be re-established after construction is complete. Mr. Hunt added that the seven shrubs that are currently in the front yard will be dug up and re-used. Mr. Mack inquired about plans to use silt fencing, and Mr. Hunt replied that they would use this during construction. Ms. Barnhorst also noted that less than 10% of the lot is impervious surface, and much of the gravel that was previously on the lot has been replaced with grass and other plants, such as boxwood.

Ms. Horgan expressed concern that the survey map presented at the meeting was not dated or stamped by an engineering firm, which is required when Ms. Barnhorst and Mr. Hunt go before the Town Planning Board next. The map presented is six years old, and the wetland line may have changed since it was originally created. Mr. Hunt commented that he was unaware that the Conservation Commission needed an exact measurement of the wetlands line, nor was he informed that he would need to go in front of the Planning Board. He asked if Ambit Engineering could use the existing map, which was created by the firm, or if they would have to create a new map. Mr. Mack replied that the engineers would likely use the GPS units from the existing map, and have a wetlands scientist spot flag where the wetland currently lies. Ms. Horgan suggested consulting with Ambit Engineering to see if they could stamp the existing map in order to certify that the wetlands line remains where it is marked on the map. Commission members noted that based on the presented plans showing the 100 foot setback, Mr. Hunt and Ms. Barnhorst would not have to appear again in front of the Commission.

Ms. Kennedy questioned how other Town residents have been able to make much more significant changes to their lots, to which Ms. Horgan and Ms. McCarthy noted that all homeowners must go through the same process, which often takes months, and that homeowners have the right to remove certain plantings from their lot. Ms. Kennedy responded that the perception is that rules have not been applied uniformly.

Mr. Rini motioned that the Conservation Commission recommend that plans submitted by Peter Hunt and Beth Barnhorst, dated July 10, 2018, be approved in the furtherance of their project in adding a small 8 foot by 26 foot addition, that included the addition of an 8 foot by 7 foot porch, with the conditions that silt fencing be used between the addition on Pit Lane and the wetlands. Mr. Pascale seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Unfinished Business.

Mr. Rini motioned to go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A.3 (L) to continue consideration of legal advice. Mr. Pascale seconded. The motion was unanimously voted on at 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Rini motioned to move back into a public session. Mr. Mack seconded. The motion was approved unanimously at 6:56 p.m. Mr. Rini motioned to seal the minutes from the non-public session RSA 91-A.3 (L) concerning consideration of legal advice. Mr. Pascale seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business.

Ms. Degnan presented two invoices for the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) for the current fiscal year. Ms. Barnhorst motioned to approve the payment of invoice number 86224 in the amount of \$1,130.73 and invoice number 86225 in the amount of \$1,555.23. Mr. Pascale seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Announcements.

None.

6. Adjourn.

Mr. Pascale moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Barnhorst seconded. The motion carried, unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:07p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Rumph