

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 7, 2021

APPROVED: 5/4/21

AGENDA: MAYHEW PROGRAM
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
STANDARD DREDGE AND FILL APPLICATION

ATTENDING: Carrol Brown (Chairman), Janet Cote (Vice Chair-Zoom), Karen Bemis (Zoom), Jason Moore, Bonnie MacGillivray-Blout

ABSENT: Richard Batchelder

OTHER: Christina Goodwin (Land Use Manager)

Mr. Brown stated that the Governor's Emergency Orders that allow for meetings to be held both in-person and electronically due to the pandemic. Members of the Commission and the public are attending in-person, via video or telephone conference. The meeting opened by roll call vote 5-0 with a quorum.

The Town Clerk attended the meeting and swore in Mrs. Cote, Mrs. Bemis, and Mr. Moore.

MINUTES OF FEB. 3, 2021:

The minutes of February 3, 2021 were reviewed and amended. J. Cote made a motion, second by K. Bemis, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried via roll call vote 4-0-1.

MINUTES OF March 3, 2021:

The minutes of March 3, 2021 were reviewed and amended. C. Brown made a motion, second by B. MacGillivray-Blout, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried by roll call vote 4-0-1.

MAYHEW PROGRAM – 6 Olde Lane Road, Map/Lot #104-134

Jay Buckley (Project Manager) and Jim Nute (Executive Director) were in attendance to answer any questions. Mr. Buckley presented the plan. He stated that they own a cottage and have pontoon boats, bring in groceries, etc. there. They wish to demolish the cottage and build new in the same footprint. The septic system will be new. He presented the plan for the effluent disposal system approved by the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

Mrs. Cote asked if the septic is raised at all and was told that the test pit was raised a little. Mrs. Cote stated that this is an improvement over what they have. She then asked if they are 125 feet back as is in our wetland's ordinance. Mr. Buckley answered that the State is only 75 feet and they approved it as above the water table. He added that the present system was built in 1978 with a tank in the ground. They wish to build a 2-bedroom cottage as a couple of staff stay sometimes and they may have a full-time person. Ms. MacGillivray-Blout asked how many feet the system is away from the lake and was told the closest is 100 feet. The applicant questioned why we have a 125-foot setback and Mrs. Cote answered that they are revisiting the distance for a possible change to the ordinance. Mr. Brown explained that a leach field is to treat the effluent to make it safe enough. He also added that NHDES requires a 50-foot setback from a wetland and with the newer systems this may be enough.

MAYHEW PROGRAM continued:

J. Cote made a motion, second by K. Bemis, that the Conservation Commission reviewed the system presented by the Mayhew project and as presented, the system is an improvement over what exists currently and therefore is recommended to approve. The motion carried via roll call vote 4-0-1.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

J. Cote motioned for Carroll Brown to be the Chair, second by K. Bemis. The motion carried by roll call vote 4-0-1.

C. Brown motioned for Janet Cote to be the Vice Chair, second by B. MacGillivray-Blout. The motion carried by roll call vote carried 4-0-1.

DREDGE AND FILL APPLICATION:

This is a wetland's permit application for Floyd and Ann Frost, Holiday Hills Drive, Map/Lot #110-048. It is a corner lot with the left side elevated and the right side lower and a large culvert. Ms. Goodwin told the applicants that they should talk to NHDES first and that is the application before the Commission. The lots beside this lot had done some illegal filling and it is believed that it has caused some run-off for this lot. Mr. Brown stated that lot #56 always has standing water on it frequently. Mrs. Cote asked if they want fill to do the driveway and culvert and was told that they do. She asked if the new home is just shy of the setbacks and the plan seems to show it is right on the line as the dotted line looks like it might be the setback. Mrs. Cote was curious as to how much fill they would bring in. A discussion followed.

Mr. Brown noted that there is about a 6-foot drop and questioned the new 30-foot culvert feeding into a 24-inch one. A discussion of the driveway location was held, and Ms. Goodwin stated that, any further left it might impact more of the lot. Mr. Moore mentioned that there is no place to sign the application. Mr. Brown stated that they do not show the septic system and Mrs. Cote felt that the application is incomplete. There is a concern that the driveway will be installed before we know where the septic will be. She asked, if the Commission, can request a wetlands scientist be involved. Ms. Goodwin said that she believes that they will need a Special Use Permit to build. They are grandfathered to build but they still need to meet setbacks. Ms. Goodwin will bring this up with the Planning Board for more information and she will also talk to DES about it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:*By-Laws:*

Ms. Goodwin explained that the current conflict of interest for the Town is for employees. She will share the research and employee policy with the Commission and will also send the updated by-laws with the remaining changes to them.

Brochure:

Ms. Goodwin shared the brochure for the Planning Board and stated that Denise DeStefano is doing the formatting for the other Land Use Boards. She stated that she can also do the brochure for the Conservation Commission. Mrs. Cote said that she will send Ms. Goodwin what she has from an earlier brochure that the Commission started. Ms. Goodwin added that they had 75 color copies made and the cost of printing comes from the committee / commission's budget.

Plankey Spring:

No sample was done this spring, but Mr. Brown will try to get to this next week. Ms. MacGillivray-Blout asked if she could accompany him for this so she can see how it is done. Ms. Goodwin mentioned that a procedure should be created, and Mrs. Cote said that they did one which may be in the filing cabinet. Mrs.

Plankey Spring continued:

Cote got a phone call last week asking about the Spring and she told him that they do quarterly tests, and one (1) yearly test that is more intensive. It was felt that folks can go to the website to view the results. When a call comes in, home telephone numbers should not be given out. Whoever takes the call should get the information and have the Commission get back to them and the calls should be routed through the Land Use Office.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

OTHER ITEMS:

Mr. Brown will follow through on what he was to do last time by contacting NHDES for more information on application process, etc.

Ms. Goodwin brought up the Catterall easement and mentioned that a realtor has asked if there is a way to eliminate it. Mrs. Cote said that it is in perpetuity and Mr. Brown read the exact wording. Ms. Goodwin stated that she did talk with the Director of Easement Stewardship, Naomi Brattlof. The easement does not allow for multiple units in the home or any addition of units in the barn. What is currently on-site is allowed and the property is approved as a farm and/or single-family residence. She e-mailed the proposed buyer and has heard that a buyer has backed out.

With no other business before them, J. Cote made a motion, second by B. MacGillivray-Blout, to adjourn at 8:41 pm. The motion carried with a roll call vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Laferriere
Land Use Associate