

**Alton Conservation Commission Approved by the Conservation Commission 10-25-07
Minutes of October 11, 2007**

Members Present: Justine Gengras, David Lawrence, Gene Young, Earl Bagley, and Tom Hoopes.

Members absent: Steve McMahon as Selectman's Representative and Roger Burgess

Others Present: Jody Persson, Eric Piper, and Glen & Nora LaRue

Call Meeting to Order: Co-Chairman E. Bagley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by G. Young and seconded by D. Lawrence to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed with all in favor.

Public Input:

None at this time

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of minutes from September 13, 2007 meeting.

Motion made by T. Hoopes to accept the minutes, second by D. Lawrence. The motion passed with all in favor.

Presentations/Consultations:

T. Hoopes stepped down.

Jody Persson and Eric Piper Map 5 Lot 72 – Discussion of the Hussey Gravel Pit property.

J. Persson – We would like to have a closed motor sports track that is tightly monitored and the traffic will flow in one direction.

J. Gengras – Are there any plans yet to show the track?

J. Persson – No, it is still early in the process.

J. Gengras – The Town of Alton owns the conservation easement on 56-acres of the property. The property owner owns the land, but don't own the development rights on the easement section. The easement deed specifies certain reserved rights of the property owner and the affirmative rights of the easement owner.

J. Persson – There would be no further development; also we don't want to impact the wetlands. We also met with Cindy Balcus, who showed us where some of the wetlands are marked.

J. Gengras – The conservation easement was mitigation property for the Hannaford project wetlands impacts. NHDES is involved in perpetuity to enforce any violation of the easement itself.

D. Lawrence – The gravel pit is surrounded by Conservation land and this proposed use of the non-easement part of the property is inconsistent with the purpose of the easement land.

J. Persson – NH requires 96 decibels on motorized vehicles. This track would be for dirt bikes, ATV's, and snowmobiles.

E. Piper – This would be a consistent place for families to ride.

J. Gengras – This is not a direct impact but an indirect one. If a fence were to be put up around the easement, this would prohibit wildlife migration. On the west side of the property the boundary doesn't follow the natural contour of the wetlands and cuts across it, so fencing is not an option. There is a skimobile trail there already, but I don't think there is a formal agreement with the current owner. Control would be a real issue. The 56-acres in the easement area can have walking trails only with the owner's permission. The purpose of the easement is to preserve the property for outdoor recreation by and for the general public, provide general habitat for fish and wildlife, view the brook and open marsh and this proposal can adversely affect the habitat. There is a possibility that this proposed project is in the aquifer overlay district.

J. Persson – The park would be open from noon until dusk.

E. Bagley – We really have to see a sketch to really know what we are looking at and talking about.

J. Persson – The track is going to be monitored and the first time someone violates the rules they will be banned from the park.

J. Gengras – How do you keep others from going in when you are not open?

E. Bagley – Will you be charging individuals?

J. Persson – Yes

J. Gengras – What is the volume going to be like?

E. Piper – Not more than 30 motorized vehicles at a time. This is going to be strictly on the other 40-acres.

E. Bagley – What about fuel?

J. Persson – they will bring their own we will not be supplying it.

J. Persson – Where we go in Maine right now you can see the wildlife on the track and deer in the nearby field. I even moved a wood turtle off the track one time.

J. Gengras – DES rates this area as highly valuable a sensitive area.

T. Hoopes resumed his seat.

Alton Shores Road Letter.

Nora LaRue – We sent a letter in August and haven't received a response. The letter addresses the issue of trespassing on our property for pictures to be taken.

J. Gengras – The Code Enforcement office can go on anyone's property anytime a complaint is received.

J. Fortin – The town administrator was given a copy of the letter and was apprised of the complaint. The response would have come from him. The initial complaint came into the Code

Enforcement office and I asked a Commissioner to accompany me to inspect and take pictures. I will mention to Russ about a response letter.

Planning Board/ZBA Agenda Items:

None at this time

Standard Dredge and Fill Applications:

1. Porter St. Realty Trust Map 64 Lot 21 – Construct a 44 linear foot breakwater with a 35' cantilevered dock, two 6'X30' piling docks on 12 piling arranged in a "W" shaped configuration by a 30'Lx32'W seasonal canopy. Install one permanent boatlift, installing one steel H beam.

Discussion:

The Commission reviewed the application and found it meets NHDES Wetlands Bureau rules.

Motion made by T. Hoopes to send a standard letter of no objection to NH DES,

Seconded it by E. Bagley – Motion passed with all in favor.

Notification of Routine Roadway and Railway Maintenance Activities:

None at this time

Permit By Notification:

1. Hayes Realty Trust, Diane Hayes Trust Map 66 Lot 21 – Replace (1) three piling cluster and (1) fender piling taken out by the ice. Impact approx. 4 sq. ft. – FYI – Commission signed 9/17/07.
2. Ed & Nancy Schulz Map 80 Lot 10 – Repair existing docking structures: U shaped dock structure. Repair cribs and refill using only existing rock. – FYI – Commission signed 10/8/07
3. David & Lisa Cummings Map 56 Lot 45 – This project proposes to repair, in-kind, existing cribbing and related facilities for a U shaped permanent dock with boathouse on Lake Winnepesaukee. The longest portion of dock extends 28.3' lakeward from the reference line. Width of docking surfaces are 7.1' and 5.4'. There will be no change in location, configuration type or dimensions of the docking facilities. – FYI – Commission signed 10/8/07.

Minimum Impact Expedited:

1. Ralph Hutchins Map 80 Lot 7 – Repair waterfront stone retaining wall. There is no wetland impact. The wall is approximately 25' long. – FYI – Commission signed 9/27/07.

Commissioner Reports:

1. G. Young – Conservation Grant Update – This would be good to do for next year. It is just too close to the deadline for this year.

Other Business:

1. Eastern Lakes Region Housing Coalition Workshop – No action taken
2. Loon Cove Cottages Map 50 Lot 16 – Variance Request - No action taken
3. NHACC Membership Dues - No action taken
4. LRPC – NH Planning and Land Use Regulation Books – one book to be ordered
5. Easement Monitoring – letters to be sent out by the secretary

Correspondence:

1. 66th Annual Conference November 7-9, 2007
2. Leonard Galvin map 44 Lot 56-1 – Permit Approval - FYI
3. Richard & Lucy Lucier Map 46 Lot 9 – Permit Approval - FYI
4. Gregory Vickowski Map 42 Lot 12 – Permit Approval - FYI
5. NH DOT – Permit Approval Route 28S Bridge- FYI
6. Dean Puzzo Map 64 Lot 14 – Permit Approval - FYI

7. Eugene & Deborah Brewer Map 78 Lot 10 – Permit Approval - FYI
8. William Toothaker Map 33 Lot 29-1 – Stream Restoration Plan
9. Fairview Partners Map 6 Lots 36 & 37 – Archaeological Investigation

Adjournment:

Motion made by T. Hoopes, second by G. Young to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer M. Fortin
Secretary to the Conservation Commission