

GILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes for July 21, 2020
Conference Room A and Zoom Video Conference
Under the emergency order provision related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

Tom Drouin was present in Conference room A; and L. Routhier, D. Hill, Vice Chairman - L. Duncan, Everett McLaughlin and Chairman- C. Hall were on Zoom. Also, present on Zoom were Jennifer Riordan of GM2 Associates, Inc. and John Peltier.

Members Absent: Alternate John Goodhue and J. Jude

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman-Carole Hall called the meeting to order at 7:04 a.m.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM: Carole Hall announced that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by L. Routhier, seconded by T. Drouin to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Laconia Airport Tree cutting project. Jennifer Riordan of GM2 Associates, Inc., and John Pelletier of Jabos Engineering, went over the pre-proposal for everyone. They were looking to get some input on the proposal before submitting to the NH DES.

We are looking to cut trees that are obstructions, on the airport and off the airport property and those owners have been contacted as well.

J. Riordan went over the impacts to both wetlands and prime wetlands. She went over some of the plans that were provided.

She said that they would be talking to DES about possibly cutting and leaving the trees in those locations instead of trying to remove them, because it would be less impact if they were left.

E. McLaughlin asked if they would be removing stumps. No, we will just be cutting the trees the stumps will not be removed replied J. Riordan.

E. McLaughlin wanted to know how this all came about all of a sudden. J. Pelletier said that the FAA has guidelines on what elevations have to be cleared and the distances are really specified, which he then explained for everyone.

C. Hall asked about the impact to the function assessments for the wetland and will the work being proposed affect the values. J. Riordan said that she didn't see that the clearing would have an impact on those functions and there is no filling of wetlands.

The main thing would be a concern with the fisheries and that's why DES recommend some plantings be included in the proposal. We wanted your thoughts on that and if there are wetland

functions that you might be worried about.

E. McLaughlin said that they have an approved pole for osprey, but you might want to address that with Iain MacLeod, Director at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness.

T. Drouin on package page 6.2 on the lower right hand corner you'll see where the terminal building is and to the right of that is a red hatch marked for the proposed area clearing. Sometime ago the Airport Authority wanted to eliminate that area to put in a solar panel array, but that didn't happen and he would hope that they wouldn't be going in a roundabout way to get that array in there.

J. Pelletier said that they will have to submit to the state; currently they are still waiting on the Air Space study that is required to remove these obstructions by the FAA.

E. McLaughlin was wondering what the height was that they were concerned with, and is there a minimum impact?

J. Riordan said that the approach service goes up toward the runway so the shorter trees are the problem and as you go further out it is the taller trees.

J. Pelletier said that he didn't have the elevations in front of him, but that he would imagine that the tree length would be 40' based on how low that wetland is. The plan review is that we have single stream removal areas on the other side of the black brook
We have a handful, 3-5 large trees in that area in the middle.

The DES was concerned with the impact, so going in there would be less of an impact for us to walk in and cut in place than to go in with a logging road and taking all of the trees down. Therefore, it will be a lot less impact by doing it this way and just taking a few trees down here and there.

E. McLaughlin asked about the Easement and if it will prohibit this. J. Pelletier said that these easements don't, but that there is a limitation near the Walmart.

D. Hill said that doesn't have any issues with it and it seems that the Airport authority doesn't want to cut anything that they don't have to, but his concern would be with the contractor and how they will be doing the cutting to meet all of the requirements.

J. Pelletier said that they have surveyed it and they digitized everything, and they have marked the points, so it'll be very detailed.

C. Hall said that the project is in Gilford and we have worked with Laconia on Black Brook. Is it possible just to send Laconia the data or let them know what is going on as a courtesy because it's more than just a Gilford type thing,

J. Pelletier said that they sent out information to Laconia as well, back in May.

C. Hall stated that the commission members were just making comments, we wouldn't make any decisions until we see the application and we would probably invite you to a meeting and look at the final plans and then make a final determination and possibly go on a site walk as well.

Jennifer said that there would be a wetland impact in Laconia, so they would have to be involved. Tonight was just a preliminary review and they wanted to be aware of anything that

they may have missed.

C. Hall said that yes, we will invite Laconia to a meeting when that time comes, when the application is submitted.

D. Hill said that it'll be tricky and maybe to make sure to add a note that they don't cut down any more than what is required by the FAA.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Wetlands Permit application for Deborah Croatti at 140 Scenic Drive on Tax Map & Lot # 252-002.000. Repair or replace existing rock breakwater and attached cantilevered dockage in-kind. Additionally dredge interior boatslips of dockage removing approximately 28 yds. of sandy material.

C. Hall read the proposal for everyone. The members reviewed the application and the plans. She referred to page 20.

L. Routhier said that he went through the application and didn't see any issues, and L. Duncan said that same.

E. McLaughlin was just wondering about dredging. L. Duncan said that they would be putting it on the barge. L. Routhier said that they put it on the barge and let it dry.

D. Hill agreed that he didn't see any issues with the proposal either.

Motion made by L. Routhier, seconded by L. Duncan to recommend approval as per plan and application. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. Wetlands Permit, Expedited application for Robert & Carole Jones at 8 Welch Island to repair an existing dock and breakwater with no changes to size, shape or location.

C. Hall said that the application just came in yesterday. C. Hall referred to the plans on pages 11-12. You can see the dock and breakwater. They look fairly perpendicular to the property line, but the proposed looks like its cantilevered, it just looks like it's been angled. If you are removing the rock on the breakwater why can't you update the breakwater to the current shoreline requirements?

L. Duncan said that it goes with the fact that it is to be replaced in-kind and that's what they are asking. L. Routhier was wondering if they were to notify all of the abutters. D. Hill said that his understanding would be that abutters would be the shorefront abutters only for this proposal.

No further comments or questions, do I hear a motion said C. Hall.

Motion made by L. Duncan to accept the application as submitted, seconded by L. Routhier. Motion carried with all in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Weeks parcel update

Minutes approved at the August 18, 2020 meeting.

C. Hall had that she had a great chat with Mrs. Weeks outside the town hall by the bridge. She brought her in to see the poster and they took pictures. She will also be back up for the closing as well.

2. Site Review 7/13/20

C. Hall went over the applications that were reviewed at the site study meeting.

3. Other

L. Duncan asked if we had any idea about the funding

D. Hill said they are coming along, but he couldn't say what the total was currently, but they are shy with the total amount. Charitable fund raising is not going well right now and we all understand that. LRCT is finishing up on another project that isn't near Gilford and then they will turn their attention to Gilford.

E. McLaughlin said that they haven't advertised in the paper and people are out there using the mountains and the trails and it just seems like they haven't done anything.

The extension is set out to the end of October, said D. Hill.

CORRESPONDENCE/WORKSHOPS

C. Hall said that there are approved applications and other informational type things that are located in the office if anyone is interested in looking at them.

MINUTES

June 16, 2020

Motion made by L. Routhier, seconded by L. Duncan to approve the minutes of June 16, 2020 as amended. Motion carried with E. McLaughlin abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by L. Duncan, seconded by T. Drouin to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hart, Technical Assistant