GILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for June 1, 2021

Conference Room A and GoToMeeting Video Conference

Under the emergency order provision related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

On Video Conference were: Chairman- Carole Hall, Vice Chairman - Lee Duncan, Regular Members and Doug Hill and in person: Regular member Tom Drouin and Alternate John Goodhue. Member(s) absent was Larry Routhier

Also Present were: Britt Eckstrom, P.E. of Wright-Pierce, Tim Dunleavy, Captain of Marine Patrol in Gilford and Scott Dunn, Town Administrator

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion made by L. Duncan, seconded by T. Drouin to recommend that all current officers remain in their current positions. Motion carried with all in favor.

APPLICATIONS

1. Standard Dredge & Fill, Wetlands Permit Application for NH Dept. of Administrative Services, Marine Patrol Headquarters at 31 Dock Road for dredge, re-build and extension of floating docks. Agent to be present.

B. Eckstrom said the existing docks require replacement. She pointed out to the east side there is an existing storm water outfall, which she explained. She explained the partial plan of the facility. She went over the site plan for everyone, showing the proposed docks. She stated that in 2015, the building and the bulkhead were built, but the docks were left in place.

T. Dunleavy explained the storm water, box filter, culverts and depths of pipes.

L. Duncan asked about a maintenance plan. The state has that maintenance plan and we’ve pumped it out twice, replied T. Dunleavy. He said that the first clean out was significant.

B. Eckstorm said that they would be Dredging, and replacing the docks with new docks in a similar configuration as to what is out there now. They are proposing to widen the slips between the docks.

J. Goodhue said he remembers when they put those docks in. Our concern would be if this would infringe badly on the abutters. He is concerned because when they approved this originally they did so that it would not affect the people and we did not leave boats in that location closest to the abutters.

T. Dunleavy explained that from an operational aspect they used to run a 23’ straight, and we were able to take advantage of those fingers, but just like everything over the years our patrol boats have gotten bigger. We aren’t able to get them deep into the slip for a 4 way tie. This plan includes a set of piles between each slip for 4-way tie and it is only because of the distance requirement.

L. Duncan asked how wide. About 9 ½ feet, replied T. Dunleavy and the slips will remain the same.

D. Hill said that the docks actually look shorter. Yes, that’s correct they are shorter said T. Dunleavy.

C. Hall though that all of the abutters up the length of the proposal should be notified.

Britt said that only two lots were notified.

J. Goodhue said that these people will be looking at this. We were promised back then they wouldn’t have boats parked on that side and that lasted about a week and I know you need your docks, but we need to work with the abutters.

C. Hall suggested that the abutter notification is supposed to go out to the affected parties. We have a responsibility to send a letter out to the state and we ask that all of the abutters to the end of the pier be notified. It might be wise to you to do that as soon as you can, so that it doesn’t postpone your approval.

D. Hill thought that the proposal was substantial and would be best to notify those abutters.

T. Dunleavy said that they are required to hold a public hearing for the abutters and we have every intention of presenting are proposal to everyone.

C. Hall asked how deep is the dredging was going to be. It’s the same that was dredged for the initial project, for those docks to float appropriately replied T. Dunleavy.

C. Hall said that we would like to see a copy of that proposed plan when it get submitted by the contractor.

Discussion ensued as to the size of the docks and the fingers.

J. Goodhue though that that 34’ seemed excessive.

D. Hill said that where the structure is going to be past the end of the town dock will there be any Marine Patrol boats on the left side of the structure, between Marine Patrol and the town docks it might make maneuvering to the town dock difficult.

T. Dunleavy said that our gas pump is at the end of that dock and we typically use that only for fueling.

T. Drouin said that it looks like there are six waterfront property owners and he would like to have all of them informed of this proposal. The other is that tying up on the town docking system is very tight on that other side, and if you are expanding that, it’ll be very difficult for a 40’ boat to get out of there.

J. Goodhue if you look at our town docks and they are 200 feet long and no one has a problem going in and out of there, and to him 34’ is very excessive and that 28’ would work just fine.

C. Hall asked if they would look at that. Yes, we will replied B. Eckstrom.

Discussion ensued.

C. Hall was wondering if anyone at the town docks would be affected by this change. The current docks can be a challenge if there is a big boat there on each side or on a windy day. If you could at look at those concerns and contact those abutters and let us know when you have the public hearing.

B. Eckstrom stated that they proposing a precast dock system that will be built off site. The floating dock has value because it accommodates every boat even though the water levels change.

T. Dunleavy stated that they will continue to be the best neighbor possible. We have the town, the NH DES, the Loon Preservation that use our docks and there’s always a demand for docks.

Thanks for coming and addressing our concerns said C. Hall.

2. Standard Dredge & Fill, Wetlands Permit Application for 17 Lockes Island on Tax Map & Lot # 243-014.000 to add a seasonal dock protected from winds, add a new permeable water access patio at the lookout point by the pinnacle of the property and to reconstruct an old cottage and deck that are in disrepair.

D. Hill recused himself.

C. Hall went over the application.

T. Drouin knows them very well and didn’t think it would be an issue for review of the application.

J. Goodhue knows them, but it will not be an issue for his review.

The member’s reviewed the application, they have plenty of frontage and they have seasonal docks, and they are adding an entire new structure on the other side.

Motion made by L. Duncan, seconded by T. Drouin to recommend approval of plan and application. Motion carried with D. Hill recusing himself.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Weeks Field Site Visit

D. Hill said that Matt Tarr from a wildlife point of view what’s there is really good, but it won’t stay that way, it will grow up. They will be looking at what is there and what will need to be thinned out. We ought to keep mowing what’s been mowed, and keep the white pine from growing.

The report from Jessica Wright, Conservation Planner NHACD, and the Conservation members commented that it was a good job.

D. Hill said that going forward we will need to decide what we need to do with regard to the parking lot. The idea is for a parking area that will have 5 parking spaces only. The group we had was great and it was wonderful to get the support that C. Hall arranged through Lisa Morin.

I would recommend that we send them a thank you note.

2. Update on Ellacoya wall rebuild – information only

D. Hill went over there because he saw a NHDOT truck and chatted with him. He said that they went over the plans and looked at the elevations. He said that they are adding precast blocks that interlock and that they have channels through them and rebar. They are pouring behind it so they can’t be overtopped like the last round. What’s going on there now will work, much stronger, more massive.

3. Site Review – C. Hall stated that there wasn’t anything to discuss as to Conservation.

4. Other

10 Guild Circle the next-door neighbor inquired about possibly purchasing this property and merging it with his lot.

Another issue brought up was over on Harris Shore Rd.

Scott Dunn, Town Administrator said that they moved the dock over and they’ve added a finger to it. The state is swamped with things to do, but they would come out and take a look at it.

MINUTES:

April 20, 2021 minutes will wait until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by J. Goodhue, seconded by T. Drouin to adjourn the meeting of June 1, 2021 at 8:33 pm. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hart, Technical Assistant