

**Gilford Conservation Commission
Minutes for April 7, 2009 Meeting
Approved on May 5, 2009**

1. ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Chairman, John Goodhue; Vice-Chairman, Lee Duncan, Carole Hall, Chuck Coons; Donald Sibson; Tom Drouin, Larry Routhier, Rudy Lehr and Terry Stewart.

Others present: Stephanie Verdile Philibotte, DPLU Technical Assistant, Luke Powell, City of Laconia DPW.

Members Absent: Paula McDonald, Douglas Hill, and Everett McLaughlin.

Call meeting to order:

J. Goodhue called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

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

2. APPLICATIONS:

Bradford S. Hall Revocable Trust. Bradford S. Hall, Trustee

Applicant proposes to install a second 6' x 40' (240 sq. ft.) seasonal dock with anchoring pad on shore (24 sq. ft.) and a 12' x 6' connecting walkway adjacent to existing dock. The property is located at #18 Mark Island, Gilford NH, Gilford NH Tax Map and Lot #219-006.007.

Discussion:

J. Goodhue reviewed the application for the Commission. They discussed the proposed walkway over the water and questioned whether NHDES would allow it.

The Commission discussed other applications that have similar walkways that were approved by the NHDES. L. Duncan and T. Drouin discussed that they thought the NHDES did not allow those walkways.

The Commissioners decided to see let the NHDES determine if the walkway were allowed.

Motion made by D. Sibson, seconded by L. Duncan, to recommend approval with the following condition(s):

- 1 Normal Siltation devices installed prior to construction.

Motion carried with all in favor.

3. PRESENTATIONS

Luke Powell, Laconia DPW, Jewett Brook Watershed Study

Discussion:

L. Powell said that the City of Laconia is looking forward to starting this project with the Town of Gilford's. He spoke about several floods in the "Busy Corner" area in Laconia over the past few years and said it only takes a four-inch (4") storm event to flood the area. He explained how he approached NH Senator Judd Gregg's office for financial assistance and was awarded a \$100,000.00 grant to study the Jewett Brook Watershed.

He explained the first Phase will be the Watershed Assessment and that would include studying land in Gilford. He said he informed the consultants about the Liberty Hill Road situation and they would try to take that into consideration into the study.

He explained the second Phase would be the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling. This phase will examine the areas that are the most prone to flooding and help assess preventative measures and begin a Watershed Management Program of the City of Laconia and the Town of Gilford. He said that type of program would be helpful for the Laconia and Gilford Planning Departments to include in land use regulations.

J. Goodhue asked when the last time Union Ave flooded and L. Powell said in the Spring of 2008. He said the City Police and DPW departments monitor the area constantly during the flood times and have to evacuate residents.

R. Lehr asked about the time frame for the work to begin and L. Powell said they would like to begin in June 2009 and hope to have a watershed plan completed by the winter 2009. HE explained the current funding is sufficient of the first two phases and is confident they will be able to secure more funding after the first two phases are complete.

The Commission asked about Gilford's involvement and participation in the beginning phases. L. Powell said the consultants would study the watershed and tributaries located within Gilford and Laconia and create a report that includes the consultant's recommendations as to how handle the flooding issues. He said an example of recommendations could be to utilize low impact development of the watershed area. S. Verdile Philibotte spoke about being available to assist L. Powell with the program as representative for the Gilford Planning Department and the Gilford Conservation Commission and thinks this is a good program for both communities.

L. Powell explained the NHDES was originally not in favor of dredging the outlet of Jewett Brook but because of the study, they are more supportive, especially if less destructive methods can be used. He said the NHDES could be involved later in the process when more funding is obtained and because of that, he has been keeping them informed of the progress. He explained they will be having open forums through out the process and would like to involve Gilford. The Commissioners agreed.

L. Duncan spoke about the Winnepesaukee Watershed Association and they received a 319 Grant, a grant administered by the EPA to the NHDES water quality programs, that would look at Black Brook and Gunstock Brook and that study could also benefit Laconia due to the Black Brook Watershed. L. Powell agreed.

The Commissioners thanked L. Powell for attending.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Meadows Athletic Fields discussion

Discussion:

C. Hall asked to do a formal written request to the Meadows Committee and the School Board to get the exact number of fields proposed since the Commission has not received any information on that. She discussed the issue of the monitoring wells and they need to be monitored during the growing season, which has begun. She also is looking for an answer from the Meadows Committee as to the need for the fields.

D. Hill, although absent, is requesting a response to the letters sent to the School Board in January and February.

The Commission discussed if a formal application to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau has happened yet, as they have not been notified if that has happened.

J. Goodhue wants an answer to the question about the need for all of the playing fields and mentioned D. Hill is requesting the impacts of any amount of playing fields be considered.

T. Stewart spoke about encouraging the School Board to establish the needs for the fields and then the location of the fields could be on another property the school owns.

The Commission reviewed several points they would like to be included in a letter to the Meadows Committee/School Board.

- 1 **Monitoring Study**-to tract the monitoring wells during the growing season from April-October.
- 2 **Wetlands Delineation**- The Commission would like a copy of Barry Keith's wetland report.
- 3 **Athletic Field Study**-Sue Allen said there was a study done explaining the needs of the athletic fields. She also said there wasn't a study done and that it was discussed at a meeting. The Commissioners would like a copy of those minutes.
- 4 **January 7, 2009 letter**-The Commissioners are waiting for a response to that letter.
- 5 **Prime Wetlands**-The Commissioners would like the exact location of the boundary of the prime wetlands located on site.
- 6 **Adder Hole**-The Commissions are concerned about the reverse flow from Adder Hole to the Meadows fields when Lake Winnepesaukee has a high water mark.

Motion made by D. Sibson, seconded by T. Drouin, for the Chair to send a letter to the School Board including the concerns discussed.

Discussion on the motion.

L. Duncan wants D. Hill and Nancy Rendall to review the letter before it is sent. The Commission agreed.

J. Goodhue opened the hearing up for public input.

A. Howe, abutter to the Meadows, spoke about the lack of transparency from the Meadows Committee and the School Board and he applauds the Conservation Commission for persisting to get more information. He is very concerned about the wetland boundaries that have been changed, as shown on the plans, because he has been working those fields for 20 years and he is very familiar with the wetlands and the boundaries are different. The Commissioners agreed.

Pete Marrow- asked why the school couldn't use the fields as they are now. The Commissioners agreed.

C. Hall spoke about the engineer wanting to install underground drains for the fields. R. Lehr said an engineered plan will have to include excavation within the area and a lot of fill material will have to be brought into the site in order for the drainage system to be installed and meet the design standards of how the fields should be built.

Susan Green- spoke about the sandbars that have developed because of Gunstock Brook and has concerns that that cannot be fixed.

Discussion ensued about citizen involvement in order to request assistance for the flooding issues and sedimentation and stabilization of the banks and tributaries of Gunstock Brook.

Commissioners reviewed the motion and voted. Motion carried with all in favor.

5. THE MCLAUGHLIN REPORT None at this time.

6. MINUTES- March 17, 2009 meeting.

Motion made by D. Sibson, seconded by L. Duncan, to approve the minutes from March 17, 2009 as amended. Motion carried with all in favor.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by C. Coons, seconded by L. Duncan, to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Verdile Philibotte

DPLU, Technical Assistant
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