

## Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes Draft-September 14, 2015

**Present:** Nate Fogg chair, Dave Mankus vice-chair, Relf Fogg (7:04 PM) Steve Brown, Tom Dube and Dave Tinkham alternate.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Dave Tinkham was appointed to sit for absent member R Fogg.

➤ **Public**

Donna Martin, Videographer, Richard Mauser, Richard House and Kerry Fox

➤ ***Richard House, UVCA, Grant proposal support discussion***

Mr. House addressed the Board to speak about Drew Mill Pond on the Branch River which includes a Dam that the UVCA is interested in preserving. He provided a brief summary of the Pond which has been in place since 1878 when the dam was installed. He stated over that time homes have been built around the pond and many people have enjoyed canoeing and/or fishing in the pond. He stated that they would like to preserve the pond and there is also interest in preserving the dam for historic purposes. He stated a group has formed to preserve the area and they have applied for a grant with Profile Bank as well as some other grants to help support the endeavor. He is here tonight seeking the Wakefield Conservation Commission's support in this preservation effort as they will need their support in other grant applications and other fundraising efforts. He pointed out that they do have some other goals for the area such as a recreation/picnic area and a river walk.

\*R Fogg joined the meeting.

N Fogg questioned who owns the Mill site and do they have permission from property owners for the river walk?

Mr. House replied the Union Village Community Association owns the site and they have one abutter on board for the river walk so far.

T Dube stated he would like to see the Wakefield Conservation Commission provide some funding to help get this endeavor moving forward.

N Fogg noted they were looking for a letter of support for the project and the Commission has agreed to have an open mind in funding going forward.

R Fogg stated he strongly supports the Commission supporting this project stating not only does it preserve the habitat but the character as well.

**T Dube made a motion for the Wakefield Conservation Commission to provide a letter of support to the Union Village Community Association supporting their endeavor to preserve the Drew Mill Pond. The motion was seconded by D Mankus.**

**DISCUSSION:**

D Mankus stated that they have discussed the issue in the past of the State requiring a study of the watershed which includes other bodies of water in Wakefield, which is under the purview of the Conservation Commission and he feels they should support this endeavor.

**The vote was 5-0 it passed.**

T Dube questioned if they have the engineering done.

Mr. House replied the preliminary work has been done but are fundraising to continue forward.

T Dube feels that the Conservation Commission should do something right now to help support this project and get it moving forward. He would like to know an amount of funds needed to continue forward getting water back into that pond. He questioned how much it would take to get them to the next step.

Mr. House replied they are looking at about \$42,000 to get the State to allow reconstruction of the dam and they are looking at needed about \$10,000 for the next step, they have spent about \$3,000 so far.

T Dube questioned if \$3,000 would get them moving to the next step.

D Mankus suggested they come back to the Commission with documentation of the costs for the study.

N Fogg questioned if they could provide them with a breakdown of costs need by their next meeting and if so they would be able to take action to move forward.

It was agreed the Commission would await funding information for review at their next meeting.

**➤ Applications & Correspondence**

Kerry Fox addressed the Commission to discuss the Pigeon Hill Road parcel owned by David Joy. He summarized that the owner is proposing a 2 lot subdivision and referred to the map provided for specifics.

N Fogg questioned if it's on the town line.

Mr. Fox replied he believe it is not, he is looking to subdivide it to build on.

N Fogg noted that this request is before the Commission because it impacts the wetlands and noted that both lots can built on if the owner wanted to.

Mr. Fox agreed this process speeds up the State's process. The acreage for the lots is 7.77 acres and 5.45 acres.

**T Dube made a motion for the Wakefield Conservation Commission to sign the application for two dredge and fill permits for Pigeon Hill Road owned by David Joy as requested. The motion was seconded by D Mankus. The vote was 5-0-1 it passed.**

N Fogg noted the rest of the correspondence received was e-mailed to the Commission.

### **Unfinished Business**

N Fogg noted D Tinkham has provided them with information for their new Agenda item of Unfinished Business to help keep track of projects/goals discussed. The list is as follows:

1. Gage Hill Property:
  - a. Post "No Hunting" per deed
  - b. Get approval for the easement holder to do the following: develop parking area, kiosk, trail development, trail map and signage for trails.
2. Detailed audit on conservation properties file
3. Union Meadows town properties conservation easements.
4. Advertise the Adopt a Conservation Area
5. Is a Town Forest considered conserved property OR can it be sold and/or developed?
6. Develop a tri-fold of the town's conservation properties
7. Add Jappe conservation property to the conservation file, spread sheet and to the NRI

### **Consideration of Minutes**

8/24/2015 minutes tabled to the next meeting

### **Other Business**

S Brown questioned if there is any concern with using public funds for a private entity relevant to the dam project.

D Mankus replied they have already discussed the topic and determined the watershed study meets the conservation guidelines.

N Fogg agreed the watershed study is clear that it meets the conservation guidelines, but anything beyond that he feels they do need clarity on.

S Brown suggested they look into that for the next meeting to be sure they are covered.

N Fogg replied he will do that.

### **Public Comment**

None.

#### **➤ Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Being no further business before the Commission, N Fogg entertained a motion to adjourn.

**D Mankus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by S Brown. The vote was 6-0 in favor of the motion.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Amelia Capone-Muccio*