

DRAFT
MINUTES
Henniker Conservation Commission
Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting
February 16, 2009
7:00 PM Henniker Grange Hall

PRESENT: Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Chris Fox, & Dana Myskowski

1) Review and approve minutes for the 12/15 meeting:

Chris Fox moved to accept the minutes with one revision; Mark Mitch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Report on meeting with Central NH Regional Planning Commission's Recommendations on Innovative Land Use Controls

Holly exchanged e-mails with Matt Monahan of the Central NH Regional Planning Commission regarding Storm Water Management. She asked if other towns have Storm Water Management regulations; the answer is yes. Holly will bring Matt's specific recommendations to next month's meeting. There is also on-going discussion on non-point pollution controls.

Holly mentioned that Laura Scott has drafted new excavation regulations as she updates them to make them more complete that will be looked at during the next town Conservation Committee.

Regarding wetland buffers: Chris raised the question whether there is more to possible wetlands buffer regulation than a one-size-fits-all mandate. Or, if it's possible to start with one regulated buffer for certain wetlands, then adopt others as our town needs them. Chris pointed out that several other New Hampshire towns have provisions for functional analysis that can cut the buffer zone on a case-by-case basis.

Holly asked us to consider the best use of Matt Monehan's time in the 30 hours we have of his time via the grant; we should discuss this next month.

Chris suggested we may want to recommend that we look at wetlands. Mark reported that the Watershed Protection Ordinance is in place, but that we need to establish buffers before the state will take any action requested by a town. Mark talked about how elevated phosphorous levels contribute to cyanobacteria blooms in French Pond. However, Long Pond, and the other ponds in that system, do not have the same problems as French Pond since there is an extensive system of wetlands that act as natural filtration zones.

3) *Updates to Water Resources Management Plan:*
WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE TASKS LIST

Swimming Fund: As per Spencer's suggestion Dana contacted the Trustee of Trust Funds to determine how much is currently in that account: Dan DaCosta reported that the Capital Reserve Swim Pool Fund as of December 31, 2008 had a \$15,568.56 balance supplied.

4) *Other Business:*

DES has just published a NH Water Primer, available at: <http://des.nh.gov/>.

Dana contacted Laura Scott and learned that the town has water-related maps with the master plan, but nothing with the water resources plan.

Dana met with Stacy L. Luke, District Manager for the Merrimack County Conservation District, regarding rain gardens. We discussed possibly holding a town-wide workshop by planting a rain garden in a public spot. Stacy is willing to save extra plants after the Conservation District's annual plant sale (usually in early to mid-May) and donate them to Henniker for planting in the town rain garden. We discussed Azalea Park as a possible location, which based on Dana's description, Stacy thought might be a good location for such a garden. Is there a garden committee in town that we could work with to make this happen? Dana will e-mail Denise Rico, Stone Falls and other landscapers in town, as well as Peter Flynn, to see if we can and/or want to pursue creating a Rain Garden in town and holding a public workshop so residents can learn how to establish one on their properties.

Stacy also suggested that our subcommittee launch a stenciling project that would warn residents in a stylistic/artistic way to not toss contaminants down storm drains. Dana will forward information on the storm drain stenciling project to Mark who will see if he and his students can follow-up on such a project.

Also, Stacy is working with the state prison's shop as they attempt to develop cost-effective and attractive rain barrels. She will let me know what the price of each barrel will be so that our town can offer them for sale to our residents if we so choose (hopefully at a cost below the best cost so far, which is around the \$65 mark).

The subcommittee will meet again Monday, March 16, 2009 at 7:00 pm. It was unanimously decided to adjourn at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Myskowski
February 19, 2009