

MINUTES
Henniker Conservation Commission
Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting
December 15, 2008
7:00 PM Henniker Grange Hall

PRESENT: Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Spencer Bennett, & Dana Myskowski

1) Review and approve minutes for the 11/17 meeting:

Holly Green moved to accept the minutes with revisions; Mark Mitch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Regional Planning Commission staff member who is helping with the grant process is Matt Monahan. He gave Holly a list of New Hampshire towns that have adopted wetlands ordinances. Denise Rico gave Holly a link to the OEP (Office of Energy and Planning) webpage that not only lists the towns that have wetlands buffers, but also includes what types of wetlands buffers and the setback requirements, which vary town to town.

In 2007 the Henniker Planning Board had two public meetings to discuss a warrant article (Article XXII Wetlands Conservation, 133-115 Special Provisions) to create a 50-foot wetlands buffer in which no structures would be located and no land disturbance would be allowed; the wetlands buffer was not adopted.

Holly recommends that once she e-mails each of us on the subcommittee the OEP website that we each look at other towns' requirements and consider what our own recommendation(s) might be for Henniker.

After looking at the list that Holly brought to the meeting, Spencer noted that 85 of the 238 state's municipalities have adopted wetlands buffers.

As per the grant: Matt Monahan will work with the committee to help us pen the town warrant article language, should we decide to recommend wetlands buffers.

Mark raised the question: does Matt have the town-by-town information for well-head protection area requirements: Holly will ask if there any well-head protection area regulations that towns have adopted.

Holly also mentioned that under the Shoreland Protection Act, in which certain smaller streams are not protected, towns can extend the state's protection to smaller order streams.

The question was raised: are there other regulations on non-point source pollution controls, such as storm water management and turbidity. Holly can ask Matt about this. The committee members felt it would be useful to identify what state regulations exist on the upkeep and maintenance of storm water practices, as well as whether or not there are requirements to upgrade storage capacity (per subdivision regulations). Again, Holly will ask Matt if other towns have regulations on storm water maintenance, upkeep of storage facilities, etc.

Spencer also wondered what power the state has and what powers towns have on excavation regulations. Laura Scott may know, or else perhaps again Matt can help us determine the answer to this.

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

Spencer spoke with Mick Costello at the Henniker Fire Department about EPCRA (Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act). Mick reported that the Henniker Fire Department has an extensive list of all the hazardous materials that they can find in the town, even quantities below the reportable quantity as defined by EPCRA.

Swimming Fund: Spencer suggested Dana contact the Trustee of Trust Funds to determine how much is currently in that account. Spencer told us about the two locations that have been considered in the past (but not acted upon) – on the river just up from the NEC covered wooden bridge and below the newly renovated bridge. The federal government is willing to long-range lease the land to the town. But if we build any structures, they need to be flood proof, unless they are above the high water mark; each location has a suitable high area of land where a structure (such as a bathhouse) could be built.

4) Other Business:

Holly mentioned that she had suggested to Peter Flynn that the town consider applying for an urban exemption for the Azalea park stretch of land along the river (behind the Town Library) so that improvements (such as lights for night strolling) can be added, as has been requested by town residents in the past.

Dana will contact Laura Scott to see whether the town has any maps that are associated with the water resources management plan, which the planning board approved; perhaps these maps are stored at the town hall.

Spencer asked if the conservation committee ever made a map of the wetlands in town. Mark said that the NH Fish and Game put together a broad strokes wetlands “map” upon large-scale aerial photos. The committee thought that when the town’s new tax map is produced, we can overlay the soil map to that.

The subcommittee will meet again Monday, January 19, 2009 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day), at 7:00 pm. It was unanimously decided to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Myskowski
December 17, 2008