

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 11, 2016 7:30 P.M.  
MEETING ROOM B MADISON TOWN CAMPUS**

**Subject to approval:** Minutes of the Meeting of July 11, 2016 - 7:30 p.m. - Meeting Room B- Madison Town Campus

**Members present:** Chairman Heather Crawford, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, Richard Gedney, George McManus, Rachel Klein, and Alex Cushing.

**Members absent:** Clyde Burkhardt.

**Additional attendees:** None.

1. **Call meeting to order:** Chairman Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.
2. **Call for additional agenda items:** None.
3. **Application Review: 16-14.** 390 Horsepond Rd. Map 80, Lot 11. RU-2 District. Owner: Seashore Construction, Inc.; Applicant: Cornerstone Construction Services, Inc. Subdivision of 17.5 acres into 8 lots and 4.01 acres open space.

Commissioner Gedney stated that he reviewed the application very closely and has several questions that should be addressed. First, the plan, itself, shows remnants of a stone wall, but the application states there are no stone walls. Second, four inches of top soil have been placed on the site, but when the foundations for the houses have to be built at a depth of eight to 10 feet; Commissioner Gedney asked where will that top soil be stored and how will it be handled? Underneath the top soil is a large depth of sand, and Commissioner Gedney would like to know where the applicant plans to store the sand, once it and the top soil are removed for the housing foundations. Since the lawns will be planted in the top soil, water will drain into the sand, so he wondered whether the contractor would be putting in irrigation systems for the lawns. Commissioner McManus stated that usually irrigation is done per the homeowner's request. Chairman Crawford stated that Commissioner Gedney raised some important questions. She wondered whether the builder is planning to store the top soil and subsoil on site or off site; going off site, across the street, to store the soils, would not be a viable option, since that area is wetlands.

**Commissioner McManus made the motion that the Conservation Commission chairman write a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission expressing concerns about the disposal of the soils and excavation plans; furthermore, the 10,000 gallon fire storage tank is not on the map, so its placement is needed. Vice Chairman Bouchard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.**

Vote to have the chairman write a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission passed, 6-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Bouchard and Commissioners Gedney, McManus, Klein, and Cushing.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

4. Other potential/future applications.

Chairman Crawford stated that potential, future applications could arise in the following areas: 18 acres of the Dobson property are for sale, potentially for a future subdivision; the state approved the below high tide water permit for 4 Boston Post Road; an application for light industrial/storage, may come forward on Fort Path Road.

5. **Project/Issue Updates**

~ **Residential and Street Lighting: Town fixture replacement and presentation update:**

Commissioner Gedney stated that now that town has obtained a \$400,000 grant to improve the walkway along Tuxis Pond, lighting should be included in the upgrades, as a matter of safety, since people will be accessing it at night. He suggested the Board of Selectmen be made aware of the need for the lighting. Chairman Crawford stated that the vegetation along the walkway also needs to be examined, to identify invasive species and species needing protection; a vegetation survey could be made during a site walk. Commissioner Gedney stated that the lighting does not have to be wired; he suggested the town consider solar, rechargeable light fixtures for the walkway.

~ **Boundary documentation update:** This project is still under way.

~ **Public Education/Outreach for 2016:** Chairman Crawford stated she will move forward on planning for the dark sky presentation; she also reminded the commission that it will be responsible, from now on, for organizing the Bauer Park Festival in October. Vice Chairman Bouchard stated she is in the process of making a Facebook page, and she would like to know if the Conservation Commission is considered a government agency; in addition, it would be easier to create a Facebook page for the commission, because it is easier to update, once the account is created. Chairman Crawford stated that Rockland Trails has a Facebook page and it is linked to the town website; she will speak to the town's IT coordinator to determine how the Conservation Commission could do the same with a Facebook page.

~ **Invasive species monitoring:** Chairman Crawford stated there is Japanese Flag Iris and Yellow Flag Iris at Tuxis Pond; she hopes to visit the two Mile-a-Minute invasive species sites next to Rockland, before they have berries. Commissioner Gedney stated the property owner needs to be identified at the corner of Horsepond Road and Route 79, where the invasive bamboo is growing.

~ **Horseshoe Crab monitoring and beach sweeping:** Between June and July, there were two more horseshoe crab tagging sessions, but as of July 11, 2016, the mating season is over, and beaches may now be swept, according to Commissioner Crawford. Commissioner Gedney stated he would like someone to bring a sample horseshoe crab to the Bauer Park Festival, so visitors may be able to learn about them; Chairman Crawford stated she will look into this.

6. **Minutes:** Review and approve minutes of June 13, 2016 meeting

**Commissioner McManus made the motion to approve the June 13, 2016 minutes, as submitted; it was seconded by Commissioner Gedney and unanimously approved.**

Vote to approve the June 13, 2016 minutes, as submitted, passed 6-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Bouchard, and Commissioners Gedney, McManus, Klein, and Cushing.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

7. **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Klein made the motion to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.; it was seconded by Commissioner**

**McManus and unanimously approved.**

Vote to adjourn passed, 6-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Bouchard and Commissioners Gedney, McManus, Klein, and Cushing.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlene H. Kennedy, clerk