

## **Newburyport Conservation Commission**

March 18, 2014

City Council Chambers

Minutes

### **1. Call to Order**

A meeting of the Newburyport Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Teixeira at 6:45 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Joe Teixeira, Steve Moore, Paul Healy, Dan Warchol and Jim O'Brien. Also in attendance was Julia Godtfredsen.

### **3. Minutes**

The approval of the minutes of the February 18 and March 4 meetings was tabled.

### **4. General Business**

#### **Plum Island Updates**

Beach Management Committee

A meeting of the beach management committee took place at which DPS and DCR coordinated the spring beach clean up. The beach rake from Salisbury will be used and the beach rack will be placed at toe of the dune in order to provide material for its stabilization. New signage is being planned for the points of public access. The signs will have a standard format and will include access point numbers along other items of important information.

Biomimicry Project

The biomimicry project was installed last year on either side of the sand ramp at 57<sup>th</sup> Street. The sand in this location is intact, while the sand that was added at 53<sup>rd</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Street was lost. Due to the success of the project the committee intends to install the biomimicry along this section of the beach each fall.

Jetty Project

Natural Heritage will grant special permission for the work to continue on the jetty until the end of April.

Dune Monitoring

DCR will assist the City in measuring and monitoring the dunes. The information would be necessary to obtain emergency funding if needed.

#### **Community Preservation Committee Update**

The CPC approved the use of \$535,000 from the Open Space Reserves for the acquisition of land along Curzon Mill Road. The balance in the reserves after the purchase would be close to \$300,000. It is expected that funds would be added to the reserves during the current grant cycle.

**5. Certificates of Compliance, Requests for Determinations, Requests for Minor Modifications**

**Geordie Vining**

Central Waterfront, Harbormaster Facility

Request for Determination of Exemption from WPA and Ordinance

Geordie Vining asked that the Request for Determination be postponed.

**Lake Realty Trust**

6 Opportunity Way

Request for Certificate of Compliance

DEP File #051-0885

The applicant asked that the Request for Certificate of Compliance be postponed until April 15.

**6. Public Hearings**

Steve Moore moved to open the public hearings. Dan Warchol seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**City of Newburyport, Department of Public Services – Water Division**

Plummer Spring Road

Notice of Intent

Erica Casarano and Jessica Hunt of AECOM described the proposed improvements to the Upper Artichoke Dam. She said the inlet structure that controls the flow of water from the upper to lower reservoir is not functioning well and is to be replaced. A cofferdam constructed from a frame and weighted plastic would be installed. The work area would be accessed from the West Newbury side of the dam and the work would be done from a crane or by barge. The brick gatehouse structure is to be demolished. A wheelbarrow would probably be used to transport the materials to be removed across the dam. The work is expected to take five months and would be done during the summer when the water level is low.

The resource areas were delineated in September and include inland bank, BVW and upland. Some trees that are within 20 feet of the dam would be removed. The area would be seeded at the completion of the work. The contractor would be given a series of constraints and would propose a plan and construction sequence.

Steve Moore moved to close the public hearing. Dan Warchol seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**7. Orders of Condition**

**City of Newburyport, Department of Public Services – Water Division**

Plummer Spring Road

Paul Healy moved to issue an Order of Conditions with the special conditions that 1) the contractor shall provide the Commission with a construction sequencing plan and list of potential impacts to the Newburyport side of the reservoir before may work, 2) the erosion control shall be left in place until all of the plantings have become established and 3) all debris from the demolished gatehouse shall be removed. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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**8. Enforcement**

None

**9. General Business Continued**

The planning office might wish to update its printer and the Commission might contribute to the cost if necessary.

One of the subcommittees working to update the City's master plan is scheduled to next meet on March 25.

The members discussed the siting of the proposed Harbormaster's facility. From their standpoint it might be preferable to combine the facility with a visitor center and locate it away from the water.

**10. Adjournment**

Steve Moore moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Jim O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.