

TOWN OF BOW

Conservation Commission

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

Phone (603) 223-3970 Fax (603) 225-2982

Website: www.bownh.gov Email: conservation@bownh.gov

Approved as amended on September 14, 2020

Bow Conservation Commission August 17, 2020 Minutes

The regular meeting of the Bow Conservation Commission was held on August 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Meeting Software. Chair Sandy Crystall called the meeting to order with reading the virtual meeting checklist and roll call introduction of the members.

Members present: Sandy Crystall, Wendy Waskin (joined at 7:05 PM), Bob Ball, and Dik Dagavarian, and Michael Hansen.

Items for Consideration/Discussion

Granite Shore Power - temperature gauges in Merrimack River.

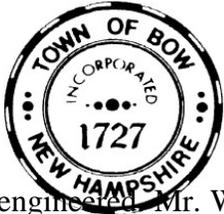
Sarah Allen from Normandeau Associates and Alan Palmer from GSP presented the details of the project. Ms. Allen said that the proposal is to install two temperature gauges (one upstream and one downstream from the warm water discharge area) in the Merrimack River. She noted that there are presently two similar gauges, but they are closer to shore. The new ones are planned to be placed farther from shore (169 ft and 198 ft for the upstream one and downstream one respectively). She added that the gauges will be sending the information to monitors and will be connected by cable located on the river bed and secured by sandbags. The gauges will be suspended about 1 ft in the water and there will be hazard buoys with pyramid anchors to mark their location. Ms. Allen also noted that the downstream gauge will be dropped to the bottom for the winter with the buoy taken off and the upstream gauge will remain. Then she described the cable protection on the shore, which will be a small diameter steel pipe and riprap. The total impacts for both gauges combined are less than one hundred square feet. Ms. Allen and Mr. Palmer answered questions about the timeline of the project. Mr. Ball asked about other ways of transmitting the data without a cable (like telemetry), etc. to minimize impacts.

Ms. Crystall noted that it would be good if a representative would be present to answer questions once the Commission takes up the DES permit review when the application is being submitted.

Bow Pioneers Wetlands CUP#406-20W: Construction of a bridge on a Class VI road with 5,370 sq. ft. of wetland impact (and Wetlands (Standard) application # 2020 - 1701

Dan Weed from Bow Pioneers noted that a site walk took place recently and presented the details of the project. The proposal is to repair the degraded part of a Class 6 road and put a new bridge over the existing structure that is now under water. He provided the structural details of the proposed new bridge, which will use 40 ft steel beams placed on concrete blocks. He noted that the Town requested it to be gated on either end and that is what is planned. Mr. Weed added that he received support from the Board of Selectmen and that neither NH Fish and Game or NH Natural Heritage Bureau had any issues with the project.

Questions were posed by members concerning the whole project area being in the floodplain; the existing bridge structure being unknown due to it being under water; the bridge plans not being



TOWN OF BOW

Conservation Commission

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304
Phone (603) 223-3970 Fax (603) 225-2982

engineered. Mr. Weed responded by stating that they have used similar structures in other parts of the Town without any issues and NHDES had classified this wetlands permit as a minor impact.

Ms. Crystall noted that the functional assessment focused more on the Blanding's turtle than the hydrologic effects of the proposed fill (ten feet wide and approximately 500 feet long at a depth of 9 inches) in the floodplain. . She also added that the proposed restoration seed mix should be different and said that she can refer the applicant to a seed mix that is only native seeds.

Discussion ensued about the origins of the Class 6 road and the fact that this area has always been a wetland. Mr. Hansen suggested to mitigate the amount of fill by raising the bridge height to allow for more flow, which Mr. Weed said would not be a problem.

Ms. Crystall reiterated the concerns the Commission raised:

- Native restoration seed mix needed;
- Concerns with the fill and impact on hydrology;
- Need more information on the existing underwater bridge structure;
- The functional assessment needs to address the impact of fill in the floodplain;
- Provide a scale bar on the plan.

Turee Pond Update

Mr. Ball provided an update on the diver's work out at Turee Pond and noted that there is a lot more milfoil than the Commission expected given the chemical treatment last year. Members discussed potential strategy going forward given the remaining budget. Ms. Crystall will ask the NHDES representatives questions about the unexpected reduced effectiveness of the herbicide and similar issues in other places and noted that it was suggested to treat one more time.

Then Mr. Ball spoke about VLAP and VRAP measurements that he will be starting next week at Turee Pond and Bow Bog Brook. He noted that only two out of four rounds were done due to the NHDES labs being closed because of the pandemic. He also sampled in July and data should be back in the fall. Then Mr. Ball and Ms. Crystall spoke about elevated phosphorus levels at stream on the south side by the high school and members discussed possible causes. General consensus was that this will need to be investigated further.

Ms. Crystall thanked Mr. Ball and Mr. Dagavarian for their assistance to the milfoil diver on Turee Pond.

NRI update

Ms. Crystall asked if anyone had additional comments on the report or the Story Map. Members discussed the suggestion to request pictures from the public to be used in the Story Map. Ms. Crystall will draft the ad/request to be posted for the public. She also noted that the presentation session by the consultant will take place sometime in the fall once the document is close to being finalized.

VSEA Abenaki test wells on lot 56

Ms. Crystall referred to the excerpt from the Board of Selectmen minutes from July 14, 2020 where the Board had agreed to allow Abenaki Water Company to drill two test wells due to the need for an additional water supply. Ms. Crystall noted that the affected neighborhood is where she resides therefore she would ask other members to track this issue. The lot in question is a Town forest. Ms. Waskin agreed to research.

Other items

Ms. Crystall spoke about the status of the land donation (Pushee/Chadwick) and noted that it is



TOWN OF BOW

Conservation Commission

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

Phone (603) 223-3970 Fax (603) 225-2982

Website: www.bownh.gov Email: conservation@bownh.gov

Members also discussed the need to start identifying priority parcels in Town and looking into grant and application requirements to purchase such parcels for the purpose of conservation. Ms. Crystall said that she will send out a spreadsheet with a compilation of such grants/funds available in New Hampshire. Also discussed was the possibility to hire a consultant for writing a grant proposal. It was agreed to put the item on the agenda and keep it running as the NRI completion will also play a big role in this process.

Ms. Crystall also noted that the annual meeting of the Board of Selectmen with Chairs of Town Boards and Committees will take place on September 22. She will be able to attend this year.

Ms. Crystall also provided an update on some correspondence received regarding an inquiry received asking for assistance in removal of purple loosestrife that a resident had reported. No Commission members were available to assist. ; Andrew Mattiace CUP update and information requested by the Commission; and the Richardson subdivision NHDES letter that raised questions including about the culvert sizing. She also noted that she will have to go out to the site to see whether the restoration plan is being implemented.

Unapproved 7/13/2020 Minutes.

The July 13, 2020 minutes were reviewed and changes were made. *Ms. Waskin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, which was duly seconded by Mr. Ball. Roll call vote was taken: Ms. Crystall – yes; Ms. Waskin – yes; Mr. Ball – yes; Mr. Dagavarian – yes, Mr. Hansen abstained due to not being present at that meeting. Motion passed with a 4:0:1 vote.*

Next meeting: September 14, 2020 (7 pm)

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.