**Conservation Commission Meeting**

**May 11, 2015**

**Meeting Opened**: 06:00 pm

**Members Present**: Sue Foote, Mike Colin, Helen Lalime, Dick Dodge, AL Mueller and Judie Walker.

**Guest**: Alyson Eberhardt

*Approval of minutes from March 11, 2015*

*Motion: Mike Colin*

*Sue Foote seconded*

*Passed unanimously*

**Dredge and fill applications/permits**:

* Louis Luciano of 20 Haverhill Street is applying for a NH DES Wetlands Permit. This project proposes to replace an existing dwelling with a similar size house, mostly within the existing footprint. Dune vegetation disturbed by the project will be relocated to areas where existing structure will be removed. The surface area of the wetlands that will be impacted will be 551 square feet adjacent to sand dunes.

**Other:**

* Alyson Eberhardt attended the Conservation Commission tonight ( May, 11, 2015) and provided the commission with an update of the beach grass harvesting and propagation aspects of this grant, which the Conservation Commission voted to dedicate up to $20, 000.00 (Twenty thousand dollars) from the Conservation Fund on November 10, 2014. (minutes attached).
* We also discussed the proposed plans for the dune area located north of the Harborside park, which include reducing the number of pathways crisscrossing through those dunes and establishing between 3 and 5 approved pathways across the dunes to the harbor beach and river.

**Other cont.:**

* Tonight the Commission agreed to provide a payment of $15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand dollars) towards funding this project.

*Motion:* Mike Colin

Second: Sue Foote

Unanimous

**The project goals are**:

* + Build coastal resilience to climate change and enhance landforms and wildlife habitat through the restoration of sand dune habitats in Hampton State Park, Hampton Harbor Wildlife Management Area, and the Town of Seabrook.
  + Create a beach grass garden at Hampton Beach State Park to provide plants for re-vegetation efforts and serve as an educational opportunity for volunteer stewards and park visitors.
  + Engage local citizens in restoration and outreach efforts in order to create a network of informed citizens.

**Expected Outcomes:**

* + Dunes systems become more resilient as walkways are re-vegetated.
  + Volunteers participate as collaborators in field activities and increase their understanding of the threats to coastal sand dune habitats and the role of human actions (i.e. trampling) as one of those treats.
  + A graduate student is engaged in social and/or ecological research related to their degree requirements.
  + Rare species are not adversely affected by restoration activities.
* The potential donor areas for harvest of native dunes species (from Nashua Street south) along the Town of Seabrook coast.

**Mail:**

* VHB sent the Conservation Commission a copy of their 2014 3rd year monitoring report. This project involves restoring the Cains Brook salt marsh through the removal and control of common reed (phragmites austral). Removal of the invasive plant species from the marsh and adjacent upland areas will be accomplished through the use of machinery and by hand. Phragmities re-establishment will be controlled through the enhancement of tidal flowage and the denser stands combined with spot treatment of herbicides n less dense stands treatment with herbicides will be the primary control method maintenance applications will be applied as necessary, monitoring will occur during the construction phase of the project and subsequent to it, to determine success of the project.
* Zoning Board of Adjustments sent the Conservation Commission a copy of their minutes from February 25, March 25, and April 1, 2015.
* Zoning Board of Adjustment sent the Conservation Commission a packet for their next meeting on April 22, 2015 regarding the Kane Company purchasing the Dog Track.
* Rockingham Planning Commission sent Conservation Commission a copy of the Draft Regional Master Plan.
* SELT (Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire invited Conservation to join them for Annual Conservation Celebration & National Trails Day on June 6, 2015.
* John Starkey sent the Conservation Commission a copy of a memo that was sent to Elaine Small Lentz regarding the dredging and future maintenance of 112 Walton Road/Vernon Smalls pond. Elaine would like the Town to dredge and maintain the pond.

Meeting adjourned: 8:00 pm

Next Meeting: June 8, 2015

Respectfully submitted: Judie Walker, Secretary