

ESSEX CONSERVATION & TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Via Teams

In attendance : Board members - Christine Hammer (Chair), Mike Spaeder, Alan Botula (Vice Chair), Casey Clark, Diana Wood (Secretary). With Chuck Vile on phone, and Darren Schibler (Town Planner)

Hammer opened the meeting at 6:35pm

1. Public Comments

- none

2. Agenda Changes and Approval

- Hammer wants to add Personal changes

3. Personal Changes

- Hammer's second 3-year term is up in June, and asks to not be reappointed. Notes the positive changes of the Committee over the years. This will be her last meeting and she will ensure that documents she has will be turned over to the group.

4. Development Review

- Minor amendment to the Red Pine Circle development in an Industrial Zone. The warehouse and manufacturing plant seeks to add smoke stacks, silos and contractor yard. Very little concern from the committee
- 19 Corporate Drive project also in the Sand Hill industrial area. Schibler noted that the planting plan for trees should be sited to avoid utilities.
- 10 Carmichael design plans exceeds density requirements and has less business space than is desirable in the Core. Aesthetically lacks uniqueness. Schibler noted that the ETC Master Plan has been approved and this building does not align with the specifications in the Plan.
- Final review of subdivision on River Road of existing housing. Plans offer easements for future bike path along River Road
- 81 Susie Wilson Rd project includes 12 units. This is the final stage and includes a large section of open space. 6 of 12 units will be permanently affordable housing with a mix of rentals and owned units. Has in-ground septic systems.
- 126 Brigham Hill lane boundary adjustment. Shifting some areas of land from one lot to another. No comments from the Committee.
- 125 Weed Rd parcel subdivision, in the scenic overlay district near Naylor. Looking to add another house. This will be presented again. Hammer asks if there is a minimum of acres. Schibler says yes, it's 3 acres, but add that views are important to consider when placing the new buildings.

5. Spring Clean-Up Day De-Brief

- Hammer thanks everyone that came on the hot day. She sent us all photos of the day and will be sure that Chuck Vile gets photos of the Scout troops. Overall the turnout was disappointing, likely due to poor promotion. It's important to do posters and posts to Front Porch Forum. Hammer was also deeply disappointed because we didn't get access to the shed and tools, nor did we get any trash bags. We need to supply Parks and Rec with the posts and details so they can share through their communication channels.
- Scouts asked if they could continue keeping buckthorn removal as an ongoing project. They would need to coordinate with Public Works and/or Parks for disposal. Hammer notes that they might be a good group to engage with the Matthieu Town Forest buckthorn patch.
- Clark echoes Hammer's comments.
- Wood asked if Parks & Rec can send an email to all the Indian Brook Pass holders. They have not done so in the past over concerns of misuse of their email list.
- One positive note is that much preparation for the Fall clean up day is already done because a lot of buckthorn is already tagged.

6. Arbor Day, EAB Grant Closeout, and Tree City USA

- Botula updates the group that everything is all set for the event on Thursday.
- Heritage will dig the holes on Wednesday, and have a staff person to monitor the planting and add the finishing touches.
- Hammer adds that everything starts at 9am. If people want to attend, they need to call ahead. All 120 2nd graders will participate. Hammer will give a brief statement. Classes will have individual lessons and then will fill it in. Hammer will take photos of the event, needed for the Grant.
- Schibler asks if it will be live streamed. Hammer hadn't heard any details about that. She is trying to get local tv and press to attend.
- Botula adds that watering and further care of the trees needs to be finalized. Perhaps we can have a sign up sheet and staff and committee members can help. Comments about how dry it's been.

7. Tree Care Ordinance – Draft

- Botula comments on the items that are still being finalized. The committee reviewed and commented on the draft document.
- Next steps for it include final approval from the Committee before sending to the SelectBoard. It will then go through the ordinance process that will be publicly warned.
- Botula makes a motion that Schibler sends drafts to Committee member for comments and after approval sends it to SelectBoard for further actions. Wood seconds. All approve.

8. Minutes

- Hammer asks if there were changes of corrections. Botula moves to accept. Spaeder seconds. All approve.

9. Work Plan & Calendar Review

- Hammer reminds the committee that we have outlined projects and tasks. Botula adds that it's nice to use the list to focus on what the Committee is and isn't doing.
- Trail mapping is ongoing. Leads are Botula and Spaeder. Need more support from Parks and Rec. Wood suggest that trails can be focused on during the school year, rather than the summer when Parks & Rec is super-busy.
- Hammer follows up that Committee members should check the list and get familiar with it.
- Schibler updates on the Indian Brook forest management plan. Proposal can be created for logging. It will be reviewed by the Committee in the future.

10. Reading File

- Schibler gives brief update about: Invasive Strike team with the Association of VT Conservation Commissions, trail caretake waivers.

Hammer adjourned meeting at 8:08pm.

Minutes approved June 13, 2021.