

CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY DECEMBER 12, 2019

Present: Acting Chairman Harry Viens; Commissioners Karin Karagozian, Gwen Bronson and Don Carey; Alternate Commissioner Maureen Criasia. Absent with notice: Commissioner George Gurney.

11:38 AM. Acting Chair Viens called the meeting to order.

11:40 AM. Approval of Minutes: the Commission reviewed draft minutes of the meeting of October 4, 2019 and draft minutes of the public hearing & meeting of November 12, 2019. Motion made by Commissioner Karagozian, seconded by Commissioner Bronson to approve both sets of minutes without changes. Vote was unanimous.

11:42 AM. Old Business

- Sturtevant Cove Moorings Decision Report -A brief discussion ensued pertaining to the Department of Safety's written decision and recommendation dated October 15, 2019. On November 13, 2019, a follow up phone call was made to the Dept. of Safety, Bureau of Hearings by Ms. Criasia. Dept. of Safety Commissioner Casco relayed information indicating that because the decision recommendation was to deny the permit, it would not be forwarded to Governor & Council for review (contrary to what was reflected in the written report). Since that time, no new information has been made available from the Dept. of Safety to the Town regarding this decision. Therefore, the Commission now considers this matter closed.

11:45 AM. New Business

- Snake River Prime Wetlands / New Hampton - Chair Viens notified the Commission that the New Hampton application for Prime Wetlands designation of the New Hampton side of the Snake River was approved by NH Dept. of Environmental Services on December 11, 2019. Ms. Criasia added that this means the entire Snake River wetlands complex is now protected in Prime Wetlands status, as the Center Harbor side was approved in 2012.
- NHDES Permit by Notification (PBN) wetlands application for a permit to reconstruct a boathouse on Squam Lake (TML 207-5) was submitted by Center Harbor Dock & Pier and was reviewed by Commissioners Viens and Criasia on 11/27/19, signed by Mr. Viens for NHDES expedited "processing". It was noted by Mr. Viens that the project details reflected compliance with Center Harbor's water resources ordinance.
- Don Carey reported that revised rules and regulations for NHDES Wetlands applications and permitting will come into effect on December 15, 2019. The updated regulations are far more stringent and prescriptive than the ones that have been replaced. Complete information is available on the DES website. For example, every Permit by Notification will now require a Conservation Commission sign-off.
- Process for Conservation Commissioner Sign – Off on NHDES Wetlands Applications - After some discussion it was decided to authorize additional Commission members to review and sign necessary wetlands applications in the event that the acting chairman is unavailable, in accordance with the revised wetlands rules as noted above. Motion was made by Chair Viens to authorize commissioners Karin Karagozian and Maureen Criasia (in addition to himself) to sign off on NHDES Wetlands applications. Seconded by Maureen Criasia. Vote was unanimous. The Commission needs to notify the Town Clerk of this decision, as she receives the applications.

- 2019 Annual Report - Chair Viens and Ms. Criasia will draft the Annual Report and submit this via email to the Commission Members for editing and comment, prior to its submission for inclusion in the Town Report.
- The Center Harbor Hazard Mitigation Committee will meet on 12/12/19 following the Conservation Commission meeting. A related questionnaire was distributed to the Commissioners for completion and return. Conservation Commissioner Criasia is a member of the committee and developed a report detailing the flood storage capacity of Center Harbors' wetland complexes and its relationship to potential flooding events. She noted that Center Harbor has 1090 acres of wetlands, each acre of which is capable of storing and mitigating up to approximately 1 million gallons of water during flooding events. (Report attached to these minutes).
- The Commission was notified that the Energy Committee would like to work with them to support potential state legislation regarding plastic recycling in municipalities, especially single use plastics.
- The 2020 Commission meeting schedule was discussed. It was decided that regularly scheduled meetings will be held quarterly, i.e., on the 2nd Thursday of February, May, August and November at 11:30 am. Additional meetings and hearings will be scheduled on an "as needed" basis, and agendas noticed on the Town website, local business bulletin boards and the local papers per municipal protocol.
- Belknap Woods – Ms. Karagozian reports she attended the bell ringing ceremony at Belknap Woods on November 16, 2019. The concern for potential trail expansion into the newly added acreage to Belknap Woods was raised and discussed. The Commission has heard that the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) is not planning any trails in the newly acquired acreage, which will help ensure protection of the heron rookery in the prime wetlands area.

12:40 PM - Public Input - None

12:46 PM - Adjournment - Chair Viens thanked the Commissioners on behalf of the Town for their work during 2019 and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be held on February 13th, 2020 at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Harry Viens
 Acting Chairman