

BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting of August 10, 2011

Members In attendance: Doug Cowie, Ray Jones, and Rob Wofchuck, chair

Alternates in attendance: Victor Schmalzer

Guests in attendance: Larry Morse, GZA Environmental (GZA)
Len Lord, Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD)
Mark Jacobs, Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD)
Sally Soule, NH DES
George and Elaine Hussey, 182 Rowell Road West

Meeting convened at 7:15PM.

1) Motion to give V. Schmalzer voting rights by Cowie and seconded by Jones. All were in favor.

2) Larry Morse from GZA Environmental presented plans for Minimum Impact Expedited Permit Application for Rockingham County to install a new steam pipe to the correctional facility. Morse distributed plans and an aerial map of the complex. Morse explained that the county is installing new biomass boilers on an empty pad in the proximity of the existing boiler. The biomass boiler will service the nursing home and correctional facility. This necessitates installing a steam pipe from the biomass boiler to the correctional facility which requires crossing over Dudley Brook. The plan is to utilize the existing driveway crossing and install the pipe in the riprap that is on the side of the existing crossing. This would require a temporary impact but no permanent impact. This route causes the least disturbance. V. Schmalzer asked about an impact to the pond area and Morse said there would be no impact. Wofchuck asked about how they would prevent soil or rock going into the brook and Morse explained it would be done with silt fencing.

Motion by Cowie and seconded by Jones to approve the permit and authorize the Chairman to sign. All were in favor and Wofchuck signed the applications.

3) Len Lord from RCCD gave an update on the Exeter River Stormwater and Buffer Improvement Project. Lord explained that all work was being done in the town's right-of-way and on the Wilson's property with their approval. Lord reviewed the funding for the project which included NH DES High Quality Water Grant, NH DES Aquatic Resource Mitigation Grant, State Conservation Commission Grant (Mooseplates), Town of Brentwood match-in-kind through the highway department, and Trout Unlimited. Lord reviewed the preliminary engineering strategies for the specific sites being addressed by the project.

a) Lord explained that along Haigh Road, starting at Robinson Road and going down toward Rowell Road West, the grass swales on both sides of the road would be improved.

b) A gravel wetland will be installed in the northeast corner of Rowell Road West and Haigh Road owned by the Wilsons. Lord explained that there are two culverts in the area and that the one by the bridge will only be used as an overflow since it empties directly onto bedrock with no opportunity for treatment. The channel will be directed to the second culvert and a plunge pool will be added where the culvert empties. Lord to check on scenic road regulations since trees will need to be removed for gravel wetland. Wofchuck asked that plantings be included along the road to maintain the natural view.

c) Lord reviewed the stormwater plan for the eastern portion of Rowell Road West. Lord explained that the top portion of the hill will be repaved and if the budget allows, the pavement will

BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting of August 10, 2011

extend up to the eastern side of Juniper Lane. The current pavement did not extend over the crest of the hill so that water was getting in under the pavement and causing the deterioration that is occurring there.

d) A catch basin will be installed on the southern side about 1/3 of the way down the hill with a culvert that will cross under the road on an angle into a grass swale on the other side of the road. This will be a new swale in the town's right-of-way which will require a new culvert under the driveway at 181 Rowell Road West. The swale will continue down on the other side of the driveway into retention area. This strategy will direct the water coming down from the top of the hill onto the far side of the river where it can settle rather than depositing sediment on the road and directly into the river.

e) Lord then went on to explain the buffer portion of the project starting with the large red oak that fell over taking with it a large portion of the river's bank. Lord explained an engineered solution using dead trees that will be dug into the river's bank on angles to deflect the water into the center. Lord explained that NHDES prefers not to see rock used when possible. Wofchuck asked about the disturbance to the bank to dig in these trees and Lord explained that they will be securely anchored and the bank restored.

f) Lord reviewed the stabilization of the "beach" area which is also used to launch canoes and kayaks. The plan is to stabilize this bank with large timbers creating a step effect. While he would like to make the steps wide enough for chairs, this was not possible due to the steepness of the bank. Lord noted that the timbers will only go down to the normal high water bank so that during the summer months when the water is normally lower, there will be a sand area at the bottom for chairs. Mr. Hussey had provided suggestions for this area including a normal staircase for people to use, as well as, a v-notch for people to use when putting in and taking out their canoes or kayaks. These suggestions will be taken into account when designing the final plans.

g) Lord explained that the land will be surveyed and the location of the road determined. Planting and grass will be installed along the river side of the road as a buffer. Lord to work with highway department to establish the road edge for plowing.

h) Lastly, Lord discussed the double culverts in the middle of Rowell Road West. Lord noted that residents had pointed out that during large rain events, a lot of sediment flowed out of the culverts into the river. Lord investigated this and confirmed that large amounts of sediment do come out of the culverts during rain events. Furthermore, Lord had an RCCD intern trace the source of the sediment during a rain event and found it to not only come from Robinson Road but further up from Middle Road. The highway department confirmed that the sediment travels down from Middle Road. This issue was not discovered during the fluvial geomorphic study on which this project was based so it is not included in this project. The double culverts will be considered for a future project.

4) Cowie provided an update on the potential restoration project further up the river that was identified by fluvial geomorphic study and ERLAC. Cowie said the landowners were supportive of the project and would allow access to their property. There was discussion with Lord and Soule and potentially moving forward on this project by applying for a Conservation Commission Grant or working on for next year's application deadline for the NHDES High Quality Water Grant. Soule to provide some background on the project and we may schedule a site walk to review.

5) The June 8, 2011 minutes were moved by Cowie and seconded by V. Schmalzer. All in favor with Jones abstaining.

6) The June 20, 2011 minutes were moved by Cowie and seconded by V. Schmalzer. All in favor with Jones abstaining.

BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting of August 10, 2011

7) Wofchuck noted that the Selectboard approved the use of the open space bond for purchasing an easement on the Lyford property. The process is moving forward. V. Schmalzer volunteered to be the point person on this project and coordinate the bond process.

8) Wofchuck noted there is a site walk tomorrow with Southeast Land Trust to look at a piece of land brought to our attention by a realtor. This is 18 acres that abuts the Pilgrim Church and County Farm off of Homestead Lane.

9) Wofchuck reported on the recent Southeast Watershed meeting which was attended by E. Schmalzer as well. A presentation from the UNH Stormwater Center was very informational and educational. A presentation was made by The Great Bay Municipal Coalition which is comprised of the 6 largest towns in the area with wastewater treatment plants. They presented their case and shared the Memorandum of Agreement between the Coalition and NHDES. The agreement calls for a study to be done on the Squamscott with results to be furnished in early 2012 and decisions made from there.

10) Wofchuck reported that Trout Unlimited indicated an interest in doing an Exeter River clean-up day. Wofchuck to coordinate with Exeter River Local Advisory Committee (ERLAC) and try to get a date this fall.

At 8:47 PM, Cowie moved to adjourn, Jones seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Wofchuck