

CORRECTED COPY

CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
February 25, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vivianne G. Marcotte, Chairperson. Present were Dr. Ralph Falk, Ellen Goethel, Nancy Olney, Bonnie Thimble and Peter Tilton Jr. Also present was alternate Greg Smart sitting in for Dan Gangai. Absent was alternate Fred Palazzolo.

The minutes of January 28, 2003 were reviewed. Mr. Tilton motioned to approve the Minutes with corrections noted, seconded by Mrs. Goethel. All were in favor.

PRESENTATION

Phragmites Control Project – Meadow Pond at Gentian Rd.

Mr. Ted Diers, NH Coastal Program, and Mr. Geoff M. Wilson, Project Engineer with Northeast Wetland Restoration, addressed the Commission. The project will start on March 1, 2003 and end on 12/31/04. Meadow Pond is the northern extremity of the largest marsh complex in New Hampshire: the Hampton Seabrook Marsh.

Currently, small areas of phragmites have been killed and displaced by native vegetation at the Southern end of the marsh, near the inlet. However, the majority of the system remains dominated by phragmites. Furthermore, the phragmites appears to be thriving. Thus a second tier of restoration activities to reduce the density and dominance of phragmites in the northern extreme of the system is proposed.

The northern terminus of Meadow Pond Marsh will be the project site, dividing the eastern side into four experimental areas and the western side used as a control. The restoration approaches will be Herbicide treatment and three hydrologic methods. (Open Marsh Management, Creek Construction and Removal of Surface Sediments. Work areas will be defined by survey and marked with orange fencing and stakes to define perimeters of each of the four work areas and the creek locations.

The timeline is as follows: (1) design final construction drawings for removal plan and obtain permits (October, 2002); (2) Implement phragmites removal and creek establishment (October t March 2003); (3) set up transects in restoration and control areas (April 2003); (4) sample sediments, pore water, hydrology and plant characteristics (May to July 2003); and (5) analyze data and interpret with respect to phragmites ecological success and management approaches to control phragmites in coastal marshes with adequate tidal exchange (August to December 2004).

Results from this work will help coastal resource managers understand under what conditions tidal exchange alone will not reduce phragmites effectively. Further, the results will provide guidance regarding the types of information needed to determine whether these conditions may be important at specific sites.

At this time one abutter had questions and concerns which were answered by Mr. Diers and Mr. Wilson.

Ms. Marcotte thanked Mr. Diers and Mr. Wilson for this presentation.

NH WETLAND BUREAU APPLICATIONS

- A. Burke
75 Plymouth St.

This application is for a closed and open porch in the buffer. Porch living space on the beach side with no impact on dune or waterway. Proposed area for porch expansion is stable upland behind seawall. It will be half enclosed and half open. After a short discussion, Mr. Tilton motioned not to oppose the application, seconded by Mr. Smart. All were in favor.

SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS

- A. Golden Corridor, LLC
Hampton Harbor Condominium, LLC

Mr. Joe Coronati, Jones & Beach, addressed the Commission. This application is to remove 2 cottages and return that area back to beach. To also construct a pool, sidewalk, landscaping and fire lane within a previously disturbed portion of wetland buffer. Definitely no pool in the 50' buffer. After a discussion, Mrs. Goethel motioned to table the action until the wetland application comes in. Dr. Falk seconded the motion. All were in favor.

PLANNING BOARD REFERRALS

- A. Golden Corridor, LLC
Hampton Harbor Phase 2

Please see above.

WETLAND BUREAU AND PLANNING BOARD ACTIONS

- A. Gillick
17 Gill St.
Need abutter's consent for construction of home in buffer.
- B. Town of Hampton
More info needed for Nudd Ave. drainage project.
- C. Menici
More info needed for 22 Hutchinson Dr.
- D. Probama Trust
4 Post Rd
Special Permit granted for construction of home.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

February 25, 2003

Page 3

OLD BUSINESS

A. Open Space Committee Report

Ms. Marcotte gave a brief update. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 26, 2003. Signs have been ordered for the election. Coverage is needed for the hours of the election.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Membership

Ms. Olney and Ms. Marcotte's terms are expiring this year. Ms. Olney submitted her letter of resignation.

B. Elections

Tuesday, March 11, 2003 - Promote Article 19

C. Senior Seminar Students

Lauren Bradshaw and Rose Smiledge, from Winnacunnet High School, are working on a Senior project. They are working on the 22 Hutchinson Drive (Menici) application process. Mrs. Goethel & Ms. Marcotte explained the permitting process for the State and Town special permits.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Marcotte reviewed seminars, brochures and workshops.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was not available for 1/31/03.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2003 meeting in the Town Office Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m. The next site walk will be Saturday, March 22, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. meeting in the Town Office Parking Lot.

Mr. Smart motioned to adjourn at 10:10 p.m., seconded by Ms. Olney. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue Launi
Secretary