

FINAL
Newbury Conservation Commission Meeting
August 3, 2023
Newbury Veteran's Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Holmes (Chair), Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Beauchemin, Mr. Magee

Ms. Chair Holmes called the meeting to order at: 7:15pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Minutes

None were reviewed.

INTENT TO CUT:

None were reviewed.

TREE APPLICATIONS & NCC COMMENTS IN PROTECTED SHORELAND:

None were reviewed.

NHDES: SHORELAND STANDARD APPLICATIONS:

None were reviewed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussed NHDES permit #2023-00719.

Concerned about the impacts over the next few years to decades. Development in the West Bowl is part of the long-term plan. Each new proposed construction project will lead to additional impacts relative to the removal of natural forests and increases in stormwater, nutrients and other pollutants.

The baseline condition is not what has been previously proposed, or being proposed currently. The baseline is, at a minimum, the natural conditions, unimpacted by human activity on the property. Major concern that the existing conditions of stormwater are really bad, and there has been no proposal to improve stormwater impacts to Beck Brook and Lake Sunapee from locations other than at the proposed new parking lot and parking lot expansion. The leased property needs a comprehensive stormwater plan.

Discussion about timing of site visit with wetlands, Alteration of Terrain (AoT) and groundwater reviewers. Sounds like NHDES Wetlands Bureau needs to make a decision within 30 days of receipt of the RMFI response from Horizons, and that would be on or about August 18, 2023.

Emmanuel at NHDES Wetlands Bureau asked if we can do a group site visit on August 11.
Question: can NCC request additional time for the wetlands permit, especially given that Horizons has not responded to the NCC and other questions on the AoT and groundwater applications. Who will be at the joint site visit: NCC, DES wetlands, groundwater and AoT, LSPA?

Groundwater permit is going to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 gallons per day (is this correct?) even though they are not proposing an increase in the spray field. Additionally, there are wetlands at the spray fields and the spray is going directly into some. During our site visit with NHDES Groundwater staff, we observed a wetland that ran through the northernmost spray field. Were the wetlands flagged correctly in the field? We observed wetlands right to the edge of at least one spray field. Is there any discharge leaving the ponds via groundwater (especially downslope of ponds/dams). Vail said during spray field visit that they are doing some type of testing, maybe of Beck Brook or other locations, but the NCC has not yet been provided the locations or data.

Discussed having a joint meeting of the boards of Newbury to provide a summary of what we feel is important, how we arrived at decisions and recommendations, etc.

Action Items:

- Mr. Magee will call Rene Pelletier (NHDES Water Division Director) to see if he can get all three permittees to this site visit, and ask him about process to request extensions as NCC. Concerned that we don't have enough time without an extension. Individual Permit possibility? Water quality impacts...should a water quality certificate be required?
- Chair Ms. Holmes will call Emmanuel at NHDES Wetland Bureau to make sure all three permitting programs will be at site visit.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

OTHER:

None

Mr. Rhodes moved to adjourn at 9:10pm. Seconded by Mr. Magee. Meeting minutes recorded by John Magee, member of the NCC.