

Town of Farmington  
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 9, 2023  
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

**Commission Members Present:**

Bill Fisher, Chairman  
Richard Ballou, Vice Chairman  
Jim Pollard, Secretary  
Gerry Vachon, Selectmen's Rep  
Amber Hall

**Others Present:**

Joe Berry, Berry Surveying &  
Engineering

**1). Call to Order:**

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**2). Pledge of Allegiance:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3).Public Comment:**

Chairman Fisher said if anybody would like to speak to the Con Com he will keep the Public Comment open until they adjourn the meeting tonight.

**4). Review of Minutes:**

No meeting minutes were received.

**5). Old Business:**

**Town Cleanup-** Mr. Fisher said we have a town cleanup on Nov. 18 and we will meet here at this building in the parking lot at 8 a.m. He said he will have trash bags, gloves and vests and you pick the area the area you want to clean up and he will give you his phone number so you can text him or call him and he will come and pick up the trash and take it to the Transfer Station.

Mr. Vachon asked how long it will run to.

Mr. Fisher said it will stop at 2:30 p.m. so he has enough time to make one final run to pick up everything and get to the Transfer Station on time to get rid of it and so they can close. He said you don't have to wait until 2:30 p.m. to give him a call to pick up the trash and if you get done in a couple of hours give him a call and he'll come pick it up then.

He asked people to tell their friends and noted the cleanup has been posted on the Face book Farmington Community Forum page, the Farmington News page, the Rec. Dept. page and the Farmington Con Com page. He said he also posted it in several places in town and there were copies of the flyer available for members to hand out or post.

He said hopefully there will be good weather on the 18<sup>th</sup> but in case bad weather does hit he

will put the news out on the Farmington Community Forum, News and Con Com pages if he has to cancel it. He said if he does have to cancel he will be here to tell people in case they show up anyways.

Mr. Pollard said he will take the Bay Rd. /Fox Trot/Silver St. area and he will help Mr. Fisher with putting the bags in his truck.

Mr. Fisher said he hopes they do better and that he reviewed the records and at the last cleanup they had they barely got 800 lbs. and the time before that they were a little over 3,000 lbs. Hopefully we can get some more people and we can get a good final cleanup for the year and get it all taken up there. There are some bad spots, but overall it's not as bad as it has been in the past and I don't know if people are going out and doing it on their own he said.

Mr. Pollard said a fellow that he knows said he gets in his tractor with a trailer twice a year and goes down in the Waldron Rd. area and picks stuff up so there are a few that do that.

Mr. Fisher said there are some people picking up on the hill but there are the usual spots such as Cocheco Rd. and he didn't know if it was because people aren't securing their trash bags properly on the way to the Transfer Station or people passing through are throwing stuff out their windows.

**Any Other Old Business-** None

**6). New Business:**

**Special Use Permit Application for Edward and Donna Tremblay, Tax Map R38, Lot 8-2, 830 Ten Rod Road, Farmington, NH 03835. Proposing to cross a Class II wetland and associated buffer to access to a new building lot. This location is also shown as being in the 250' controlled development zone on the zoning map even though there is no water body on site. The project has been designed to meet the standards of the 250' controlled development zone. The property is in the Agricultural/Residential Zone.**

Mr. Fisher introduced Joe Berry and said the Planning Board saw this application about a month ago and they authorized subdividing the property into 2 lots and to get to the back property this road must go through.

Mr. Berry corrected that last month the Planning Board saw a lot line adjustment for this project giving them enough frontage to do the subdivision and they should be on their agenda for next month to talk about the subdivision.

He said Donna and Edward Tremblay own 32 acres off Ten Rod Rd. and they want to subdivide off a 7 acre lot for their daughters to build a house on. He said in order to do that to get to the building area there is a wetland that bisects the new lot so they are proposing to cross thru it with a proposed driveway. He said they are showing it thru a driveway easement on the parent parcel it's less steep in that location and the narrowest point of that wetland is right there.

He said they are proposing to impact permanently 510 sq. ft. of the wetland and then temporarily impact 322 sq. ft. and also impact 5,700 sq. ft. of buffer.

He said they show a 12 ft. driveway with 1 ft. shoulders coming down to the wetland and at the wetland they went 2:1 side slopes to minimize the disturbance. He said on those slopes they have an erosion control plank with natural fibers, a 24 inch culvert with a 6 inch bury to allow any wildlife to continue through and they are also showing double protection of sediment control within 50 ft. of the wetlands which is mulch berm and silt sock.

Mr. Berry said the drainage analysis was completed to show that the culvert was appropriately sized to make sure there's no flooding uphill of the crossing and everything should keep flowing downhill as it currently does. He said they produced a full grading and drainage plan which is in the plans they provided with construction details and erosion details to show the contractor how they should be built to meet the Town standards.

Mr. Fisher asked if he said this was going to be 12 ft. wide.

Mr. Berry said it would be a 12 ft. wide driveway with 1 ft. shoulders.

Mr. Fisher asked if the Fire Dept. has seen this and if this was big enough for them to get back there just in case.

Mr. Berry said he didn't know if they have seen it and they submitted everything to the Town.

Mr. Fisher said he thought they required 17 ft.

Mr. Berry said he thought the driveway regulations said 12 ft.

Mr. Fisher said on the encroachment on the buffer areas he said there would be a temporary encroachment on that and asked if they are putting in some type of berm or something so they can get the construction done and then clearing that berm later.

Mr. Berry said the buffer disturbance is permanent because that's the driveway and the temporary impact was the erosion control and de-watering of the wetland so once the construction is done that will be put back to normal and the only permanent wetland disturbance is the red (on the map).

Mr. Fisher said when he was reading the permit documents it said these are not constant wetlands and they don't always have standing water in them and it depends on the season and rain water runoff.

Mr. Berry said that's correct it's seasonally saturated and is a typical woodland wetland.

Mr. Fisher said this is also lower than the road out there so a lot of the rain drains from the road down in that direction and there was a bunch of pictures in the wetlands permit package that showed the water coming in.

He said the state has looked at this and they have found no endangered species.

Mr. Berry said they submitted a wetlands permit application and there was a hit from NHB that approx. 2,000 ft. away in a Chipmunk Lane subdivision there was a turtle hit so they hired a Fraggie Rock Environmental wildlife consultant to work with NH Fish & Game on that NH DES permit on their behalf.

Mr. Vachon said he read that hit was in 2017 and one adult female was observed digging a nest in a yard.

Mr. Fisher said he thought there was another hit for the Blanding turtle at one of the ponds way down the road back in the early 2000's.

Mrs. Hall asked if he said when they submitted to the Planning Board for review if they submitted a construction sequence for the contractor.

Mr. Berry said the construction details have the sequence and all the details for erosion control.

Mrs. Hall asked for the plan for de-watering there or if that is up to the contractor at this point.

Mr. Berry said it is sort of up to the contractor they just show the sump pump going out to a de-watering station and they have some details on that in the construction details.

Mrs. Hall said she was assuming they would do sheet piles or some sort of temporary barrier.

Mr. Berry said they show some hay bales and some fabric up here and that is outside of the wetland buffer as well and pointed to them on the map.

Mr. Fisher said he just got this letter tonight from NH DES that says the Wetlands Bureau received the above referenced expedited minimum impact wetlands permit application on Oct. 27, 2023 and that it was missing 1 document and that is a signed statement from the municipal Con Com and/or local governing bodies certifying that they have reviewed the application and do not require additional time for investigation or any comment they want to make that may require additional time. He said they are holding the application for 21 days so it's imperative that they do this tonight and that he get any comments off to Planning Director Kyle Pimental to night so he can get them submitted in time.

Mr. Berry said he thought that if they don't hear from you in 21 days they will just start reviewing it as a normal permit and not an expedited minimum impact permit.

Mr. Fisher said in his opinion everything is covered-they've got the sediment control, it's a very minimal impact on the area, they're putting in a properly sized culvert that has been investigated for size so that the water keeps flowing, they're looking for endangered species which none have been located in the immediate area, maybe the adjacent properties have something and that permit is being looked at by the state and he didn't have any concerns.

**Motion:** (Ballou, second Pollard) that they sign it passed 5-0.

Mr. Fisher said he would generate a letter tonight and get that off to Mr. Pimental via e-mail.

Mr. Berry said he had that permit tonight and asked if that is something he was able to sign now or if that was something he had to talk to Mr. Pimental about.

Mr. Fisher said he didn't know what things he may have or if he has anything going. He said the next thing he was going to do after that was to get a motion from the board that he signs the permit when the documentation is ready to be signed and then come in and sign it like he did for another property just recently.

Mr. Berry said that paperwork is ready to be signed and asked if he wanted him to meet up with him after he talked to Mr. Pimental.

Mr. Fisher asked Mr. Berry to coordinate with Mr. Pimental and Mr. Pimental would contact him when it's ready for him to come in and sign it. He then asked for a motion to allow him to

sign the wetlands permit.

**Motion:** (Ballou, second Hall) that Mr. Fisher be allowed to sign it passed 5-0.

**Notice of Intent to Cut Tax Map R18, Lot 003, Chestnut Hill Road-** Mr. Fisher said they want to cut the following from 45 acres: 100,000 MBF of white pine, 3,000 MBF of oak, 200,000 tons of pulp wood and aspen, 100,000 tons of pine and 300,000 tons of bio-mass chips.

**Notice of Intent to Cut Tax Map R11, Lot 002, Poor Farm Road-** Mr. Fisher read they intend to cut the following from 10 acres: 15 MBF white pine, 20 MBF of hemlock, 1 hard maple, 1 birch, 3 yellow birch, 2 oak, 4 ash, 1 soft maple, 5 beech and 10 tons of hemlock pulp wood and 20 cords of cord wood.

**Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Con Com Mixer-** Mr. Fisher said he received an invitation from MMRG and they will be here in Jan. to talk about this. He said it is a mixer for Con Com members on Feb. 15, 2024 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall at the Wolfeboro Town Hall, 4 South Main St., Wolfeboro, NH. He said it's a free event and refreshments will be provided. He said they are not sure who the guest speaker will be but they will figure that out. This is a chance for Con Com members to get together and discuss what's going on. Hopefully by then and I know it's on the Selectmen's agenda for next week, we'll know what's going on with the property on Bay Rd. he said.

Mr. Fisher said the last thing he heard was there were still some questions about the title research and who is allowed to sign off for the family giving it to the Town and there will be more on that to follow. He said he planned on going to the mixer and that he thought it would be a good time and he hoped to get the word out about the Bay Rd. land donation and see what other towns have been doing to lay in trails, who they are getting to do that and "pick some brains" to get some information.

**Grondin Drive-** Mr. Fisher said he also received a letter from NH DES about an administratively complete expedited minimum impact wetlands permit application for 14 Grondin Drive, Farmington, Tax Map R15, Lot 01. He said this is just a notice that they have received it and they are reviewing the documentation. He said this is not authorization to begin any work and they looked at this at their meeting last month.

**Any Other New Business-** None

#### **7). New Members Needed:**

Mr. Fisher said if anyone in town is interested in joining the Con Com they have 2 openings and they need people dearly. He said it doesn't take that much of your time and they do some interesting stuff like they saw tonight trying to protect our wetlands and making sure when people are building things they're doing the right thing.

He said there are a lot of projects going on in Farmington homes being built, trying for a power company to come in and put in solar fields and a lot of different things and the Con Com is also key in a lot of those decisions to make sure that things like wetlands impacts, impacts on

wildlife habitat and general land use in Farmington. We need help and we need volunteers really badly he said.

**8).Member Comments:** None

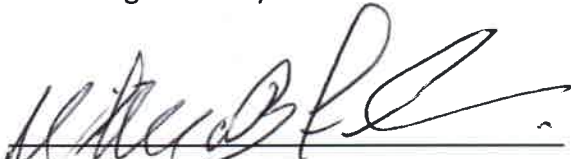
**9). Upcoming Dates:**

**Next Meeting-** Mr. Fisher said the next Con Com meeting is on Thursday, December 14, 2023 depending on if there is any business to take care of. He said the only thing has on the agenda right now is the outcome of the town cleanup and if that is the only thing he has they may not meet and take the month off unless there is something before the Planning Board and asked the members how they felt about that. He said it would be nice with the holidays coming up to take a month off. He added that they work hard and he really appreciates it. No one objected to Mr. Fisher's plan to take the month off if there is no business to attend to.

**10). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (Ballou, second Vachon) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 6:29 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon  
Recording Secretary



William "Bill" Fisher, Chairman