



**City of Nashua**  
**Conservation Commission**  
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EXPANDED MEETING SUMMARY

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**NASHUA CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**March 15, 2022**

**A. Call to order**

A special meeting of the Nashua Conservation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00PM in Room 208 in City Hall AND via Zoom virtual meeting.

**B. Roll call**

Members present: Sherry Dutzy, Chair (arrived 7:30)  
Meghan Cook (Treasurer)  
Brandon Pierotti  
Gloria McCarthy  
Carol Sarno  
Jed Crook  
Maureen Bourque

Also in Attendance: Scott McPhie, Planner I

**C. Approval of minutes**

February 15, 2022

**MOTION** by Commissioner Pierotti to approve the minutes, as amended

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Crook

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

**D. Old Business**

- *John J. Flatley Company (Owner) Requesting review of permanent impacts to "Other" wetland and "Other" wetland buffer for culvert upgrades and associated site grading. Property is located at L Daniel Webster Highway & L Dozer Rd. Sheet A, Lots 44 & 712. PI Zone. Ward 8.*

Commissioner Crook said they need to set a date for the site walk, now that the snow has melted.

The Commission agreed to schedule a site walk for March 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30PM.

**E. New Business**

None

**F. Correspondence**

None

**E. Discussion Items**

**1. Pennichuck Solar Project Update**

The Commissioners held a detailed discussion of the restoration efforts and the plan submitted by the engineer.

Commissioner Cook summarized the comments made by the Commissioners. Impact Area A should be reseeded with shrubs, the same as Impact Area B. The shrubs should be watered after planting until they are established. The contractor should take care to check for jumping worms, especially if using container-grown plants.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Cook to favorably recommend the proposed planting plan, with the following stipulations:

1. Impact Area A shall be reseeded with shrubs.
2. The shrubs shall be watered after planting until they are established.
3. The contractor shall check shrubs for jumping worms, especially if using container-grown plants.

Commissioner Pierotti said 1-gallon plants are very small. They should not be surprised that the plants are 10-12 inches in size, when they revisit the site. Plants that small will definitely have to be watered or have soil amendments to retain moisture. These have to be able to survive. He recommended that all shrubs except for the blueberry and sweet fern be 3-gallon pots instead.

Further discussion of soil retention and plant size ensued.

Commissioner Sarno said that if they are reseeding both impact areas they should be using more than 200 plants.

Further discussion ensued.

**AMENDED MOTION** by Commissioner Cook to favorably recommend the proposed planting plan, with the following stipulations:

1. Impact Area A and Impact Area B shall both be reseeded with shrubs, and shall have the same density and diversity of plantings.
2. The shrubs shall have a watering program after planting until they are established. Moisture management shall be used to supplement the soil.
3. The applicant shall check shrubs for jumping worms, especially if using container-grown plants.
4. The applicant shall use 3-gallon sized plants for all species except low-bush blueberry and sweet fern.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Pierotti

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

## **2. Conservation Commission Brochure**

Commissioner Cook asked if the website information could be added to the brochure.

Chairman Dutzy said yes.

Commissioner Cook led a brief discussion regarding photo size and text.

Commissioner Crook volunteered to look at trimming text and increasing photo size.

## **3. Commissioner Continuing Education**

Chairman Dutzy provided an overview of upcoming training on beaver deceivers.

[Unknown] said she attended a seminar at the Nashua library

about indigenous language with the Pouliots.

Mr. Widu said he listened to a similar seminar through the NH Audubon.

#### **4. JPWS Stewardship Plan Update**

Chairman Dutzy said she had a conservation yesterday with Brandi Loughlin from the certified local government program. The next step would be for the Commission to submit an application for grant money for the archaeological study. They will reimburse the costs 100%. The Commission will have to get a few quotes, and will have to notify the Mayor's office of any grants they are applying for. Until they get a quote, she will assume that it is \$10,000-20,000. The deadline for applications is May 16<sup>th</sup>.

[Unknown] asked what area they want to be within the scope of the archaeological assessment.

Chairman Dutzy said she thinks the easement goes up to Allds St. It might be interesting to go from Main St to the Merrimack River. She doesn't think it would be an issue to get permission for that.

[Unknown] said she thinks that will impact the price.

Chairman Dutzy said because it's an archaeological study it's 100% reimbursable, but the Commission has to pay for it first. This goes through the Department of Cultural Resources and the certified local government program. Nashua is one of 27 towns in New Hampshire that are certified local governments, and they haven't taken advantage of any grants. CLG was very excited to have Nashua be involved. The information from a study will be the foundation of their stewardship plan.

Mr. McPhie said the last time anyone did an archaeological study was for the Everett Turnpike. Salmon Brook is one of the most historic parts of the city.

Chairman Dutzy said she wouldn't want to shortchange the Commission. They can get an expert, and if they suggest more the Commission can look into further studies.

[Unknown] asked if part of this assessment is to determine whether the active dam at the end of the pond is considered a

historic resource. Could they restore the flow?

Chairman Dutzy said this study would be to find indigenous areas and after that they may be able to get a wetland scientist for Salmon Brook from Main Street to the Merrimack River. They could see what kind of wildlife is in the area and how removing the dam could impact that. Upriver is also a possibility.

Commissioner Sarno said having Mike Tarr and Matt Gagnon visit the site would be helpful, to see if the dam is a good or bad thing.

Chairman Dutzy said they should look at the area in section. If they knew what quadrant they were in and what they would like to do, it would help.

Commissioner Crook said in the conservation map they were given for Salmon Brook, conservation land stops at the fence. Is the area with the concrete not conservation land and just city property?

Commissioner Sarno said they recently asked Community Development Director Matt Sullivan, and he said beyond the fence is under conservation easement on the north side of the brook. She doesn't know if that means they can perform an archaeological study or not. The map shows that the easement only goes until halfway between the fence and Burke St.

Chairman Dutzy said there are four easements. She needs a digital copy of each easement to make sure they have rights to the area under perpetuity.

Mr. McPhie provided a brief explanation of the easements he is aware of.

[Unknown] asked if they are asking for a Phase I assessment and historical research. That way they wouldn't have to be digging.

Commissioner Crook asked if it would be possible to reach out and coordinate with indigenous people to see if they have any insight. They may already have extensive knowledge of the area.

[Unknown] described a Phase I assessment. If they found

indication of historic impact to the property, they would look further.

Commissioner Crook said they know this is indigenous land.

Mr. McPhie said the NHDOT might also have some information.

Chairman Dutzy asked if the Pouliots would be interested in performing a site walk with the Commission on April 8<sup>th</sup> when they walk the property with a forester and wetland scientist.

Mr. Widu said Denise Pouliot is on one of the state commissions. He can send them a query.

Chairman Dutzy asked if they live in Nashua.

Mr. Widu said they live in Alton.

Chairman Dutzy asked if they would know any local indigenous people.

Mr. Widu said there is a lady in their church, but she has limited mobility and probably wouldn't be able to help.

#### **5. New Middle School Preconstruction Meeting**

None

#### **6. Scheduling of Work Days**

Chairman Dutzy said they should set up a date for invasives.

[Unknown] said it's good to rally the community for Earth day type cleanup events. Maybe a date sometime in later April.

Chairman Dutzy said Earth Day is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They could try Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> for cleanup and invasive management.

[Unknown] asked if they can buy plants to replace the invasives after they're removed.

Chairman Dutzy said they have to talk about erosion. Up until the 25<sup>th</sup> they can order plants from the county conservation district.

Commissioner Sarno said it sounds like a great idea. The only

question is the funding. They don't have an account for Joyce in place.

Chairman Dutzy said that Mr. McPhie or Mr. Sullivan would have to do a special request with the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. McPhie said they had a fund with the southwest properties.

Chairman Dutzy said that's because they had a stewardship plan. They can't get a fund in place without the plan, and they're working on that. They will have to have plant orders in by March 25<sup>th</sup>.

[Unknown] said they could try to dial the stewardship plan back to a specific area.

Commissioner Sarno said the city-owned part of Joyce Park is 12 acres, with easements on another 12 acres. Stabilizing the banks would be a priority.

Chairman Dutzy said anything is better than nothing. She will send the plant ordering list to the Commissioners and ask them for feedback on what they want to order, so they can plant them on the cleanup date. They also need to think of a date to continue tearing down the BMX track, possibly in May or June.

Commissioner Sarno said last fall they had two two-hour work sessions and got maybe 25% done, with an average of 5 volunteers each time. They need four more work sessions to get it done.

Chairman Dutzy said Commissioner Martin might be able to get some high school students to help get it done. He works with the school. They can do two in June, see how far they get, and maybe do more in the fall.

Commissioner Sarno said there is also a strong patch of Japanese Knotweed in Terrell and in Buckmeadow. The best time to remove that is summer, using the cut and smother method.

Chairman Dutzy asked if July would be a good time.

Commissioner Sarno said it needs to be done after the plant has moved energy from roots to leaves, and before it seeds.

[Unknown] said if there's anything they want to harness the

high schoolers for, it should be before school is out.

Further discussion of invasive removal logistics ensued.

### **7. Commissioner Presentation**

Commissioner Cook gave the Commission a presentation on her upcoming Master thesis on wetland assessment based on functional values. This would then be used to coordinate property management and stewardship. She requested feedback on a study location from six possible wetlands.

The Commission discussed the possible locations and whether they would be suitable study areas.

Commissioner Cook said as part of her project she needs to do community outreach. She will be sharing a draft infographic about wetlands in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Bourque asked if there was anything in reference to Nashua and climate change.

*\*\*\*Audio muffled\*\*\**

Discussion of adding messages of climate change to the thesis ensued. Commissioner Cook offered to add some snippets.

### **8. Miscellaneous Discussion**

Commissioner Sarno said today she gave a talk about wetlands and watersheds.

Chairman Dutzy said she spoke to someone at the library, who said that they already have people signed up for the vernal pool session. They will need more brochures because of how much interest they have been getting. They also have someone interested in performing bee studies.

Commissioner Sarno provided an update on trails. The Commission and New England Mountain Biking Association will be temporarily closing some of the trails in Terrell and Lovewell for mud season.

Commissioner Cook asked the Commissioners who would be interested in volunteering to assist Jeremy with turtle trapping for the species study.

Chairman Dutzy said she was in touch with someone at Bishop Guertin who can loan them waders.

**J. Adjournment**

**MOTION** to adjourn by Commissioner Pierotti at 8:44PM

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Sarno

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Prepared by: Kate Poirier