

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HALIFAX CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 25, 2021

A meeting of the Halifax Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in the Board of Selectman's meeting room, first floor, Town Hall. Kathy Evans opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Kathy Evans, Gerry Fitzgerald, Ed Lane, Colleen Fiumara (7:10 p.m.)
Associate member: Kim Cavicchi

Appointments/Hearings:

7:00 p.m. – Nick Cohen & Sarah Nalven: VHB- Storm Water Management regulations update
Mr. Cohen and Ms. Nalven will go over the draft for the regulations with regards to the ZOOM meeting and comments made by the commission to add into the draft.

Go over the draft regulations: - took the feedback from last month and incorporated them into the draft. Also, from other draft – communities and best practices. Have a couple questions for the commission to clarify. Will quickly go over, and make sure the commission is comfortable with the changes. Fees and regulations will go with what past at town meeting. Any changes to the bylaws will go back to town meeting, this (regulations) do not. Implement by June 30, 2021.

MS4 requirements are different than the wetlands protection act requirements, some overlap. MS4 Storm water permits are different from the wetland's protection act.
Briefly went over the section of the regulations: section 1: Purpose outlines why. Section 2: definitions
Section 3: authority: who and what -- etc.... through section 4 – 13.

Mr. Cohen then proceeded to ask the questions of the commission.

Item D: biosolids – not typical, but good practice – necessary approvals, do they want more or would stay as is. Unique to Halifax, but commission does not want to add to it.

Administration section (C) definition of days, clarify what commission wants. Time frames: secretary would like to see working days. A lot of things need to be taken into consideration. This is for notice to public to change the regulations. This is for the Commission to change, not regular applications.

Deadlines and such, at least 14 working days, not less than 14 working day to make the change. Can always give more notice, so lessening is better. Will be 14 calendar days.

Section 6: biosolids: permit, sign off if they have other permits - commission good with this.

Brief discussion between the commission and Mr. Cohen and Sarah, with regarding biosolids, can use the permits to educate. (A) permit obtained concurrently with other application: yes.

(B) copies required: 2 hard copies and 1 electronic. List of items to provide application form, needs to be created. – would just put our town seal onto whatever standard state requires. With specifics Halifax requires. Mr. Cohen will look into other towns for forms. (7) abutters filed with town clerk – our procedure in house is fine. Town clerk gets a copy and others leave #7 as is. Certified notices will be reported to conservation.

Went over the fee table: can be similar to the wetland's regulation fees. No DEP fees required for MS4. Revolving fund is in place. Briefly discussed current fees and if they are reasonable. Can always change fees later on. Keep as is. Item G: certified mail – how CC gets notified. Applications with other boards send distribution memos out for comments. Can keep the same procedure. Highway Dept, water dept.

Etc. just need to ensure that anything over 1 acre is flagged to go to Conservation.... Even if it isn't within a BVW. Hard copies... will be useful to other boards. Item H: abutters: notification. Same as wetlands notification of at least 7 days. Item K: if a project changes during the project – currently have to notify if significant: may not be enough: timing for review. Members agree that they have to come back for review if they change anything, and members will decide if it is significant. Have to notify commission before any changes or alterations occur. This is in regard to timing. Can't move forward – Change in fee? Depending on the change? Can also have enforcement for violation fees. Letter E: best practices from other communities; review separately or best judgement. Does the Commission what any changes. Skip over, keep as is for now. Pg. 22. Section 9: Operating Maintenance Plan. Post construction, project is done, item 6, fee and report of OMP. Maybe a fee, but if violation then a fine. Commission will always have the authority to inspect the site to confirm the reports, fee of \$300.00 per day for violations. No fee for filing the form, report of Operation and Maintenance, fee for violation will be on the form. Last: item 12: final reports, when work is done, final report, affidavit of installation. Filing fee accompanying report or can take out. Commission agrees to take out... can keep a violation fee in place. Professional engineer has to sign off, so they are paying for that anyway.

What to do now: will correct updates. Finalize by June 30th. Officially – need public hearing – just to be safe. Notification to public, as Halifax has MS4 bylaws – went thru town meeting (2019) Regulations will go with that, don't have to go thru town meeting, but they are new to ConCom, under jurisdiction to get on the books. Better to do, than not. Let the public know. Simply advertisement in paper. Have regulations available and on website. Get finalization and review for June 8th meeting for final discussion, then public notice on June 22, 2021.

Kim Cavicchi wanted more education to get out there regarding pesticides. Mr. Cohen advised that would have to go back to the bylaw, that type of change could be brought up next year to add or have changes made, this however is strictly storm water permits. There will be potential future bylaws for these types of regulations. Everything will be updated and brought to commission for June 22 to get everything wrapped up. Asked members to review to ensure it is all set for the next meeting.

6:50 pm. – Associate member Colleen Fiumara left the meeting to attend the Board of Selectman meeting for her appointment to Member.

Secretarial:

Motion to pay bill for Ply/Hal Express for \$25.00 subscription renewal.

Motion: Ed Lane

Second: Gerry Fitzgerald

All in favor

Motion to approve meeting minutes for May 11, 2021.

Motion: Ed Lane

Second: Kathy Evans

All in favor

Discussions/Correspondence:

Talent Bank forms received; (reach out to interested parties)

Resident in college doing a civics project and would like to come into the next meeting to talk with the members.

Email regarding: Monponsett Pond reviews – support for the towns. He is to send more information.

285 Holmes St. - Liddell Brothers bought the property: before the planning board for Site Plan Review. no wetlands on the property. Adding a storage building and parking. Members reviewed the plans, asked if disturbing more than 1 acre of land.

269 Franklin St. – Solar field. Received final As-Built – will be looking for Cert. of Compliance. Members briefly reviewed and discussed. Next meeting will discuss replanting trees to replace the ones that died off. Site visit should be completed.

For the June 8th meeting, also received a request for Cert of Compliance on River St. Solar field. Will need a site visit.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion: Ed Lane

Second: Gerry Fitzgerald

All in favor.


Documents: *Agenda, general notes, talent bank forms, mosquito control project notification, land swap with Mass Div. fisheries, abutters list

Please note some documents above have been filed in the office of the Conservation Commission in the respective file folders.

Respectfully submitted

Digitally recorded by
Terri Renaud for
Conservation Commission

Approved date:

7/13/2021

KJG
C. Kildman