

Meeting of 25 June 2020
DRAFT Minutes

****Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the meeting was held remotely by ZOOM**
Present: Sue Roman, Isabel Brintnall, Mary Jo MacGowan, Betsy Janeway, Dan Moran. Alternate Sally Embley was appointed to sit as a voting member by Chair Roman.

Absent: Linda Clark and Chris Schadler

Chair Roman called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

The Minutes of 4 March 2020 and 13 May 2020 were accepted unanimously.

The Commission considered the Permit By Notification (PBN) application of Mr. John Collins of 144 Pearson Hill Rd. for a seasonal dock at his property along The Blackwater River on Clothespin Bridge Rd. Sue Roman reviewed with the WCC the application and applicable NHDES rules. NHDES.. Ms Roman expressed concerns about the dock at times of high river flow, whether from weather events or dam releases. Isabel Brintnall expressed concerns that WCC will not be able to properly evaluate the impact of the dock on the environment and the navigability through the area by boaters. Betsy Janeway expressed the belief that the extent of the dock being twelve feet is excessive. Ms Roman also reported that at her site visit with Mr. Collins, Mr Collins affirmed that the dock will be anchored to two existing installed posts and will not disturb the integrity of the river bank. In summary the potential concerns expressed were: (1) the application was incomplete in several sections; (2) the drawing for the project did not show measurements for the river width; (3) the length of the dock jutting out into the river may hinder navigability and collect debris, perhaps dislodging the dock; (4) the dock will not be parallel to the shore as per NHDES rule Env-Wt 513.10 (which prefers a parallel to shore dock unless sufficient reason is provided for an alternate configuration); and (5) the stability of the dock in high flows and the effect on turbidity and water quality.

The applicant, John Collins, joined the discussion by phone and described that the dock would be 4'x8' and closely abutted to the bank. The description of it being 12' in length will be amended on his application. Ms Roman expressed her view that with a letter to be sent to NHDES stating the Commissions concerns there appeared to be no need to reserve the right to intervene and thus force Mr Collins to file a standard permit application, which is more complex and time-consuming. Mr Collins was informed that DES might require specific amendments to his PBN application. Based on this review the WCC unanimously voted to sign the application waiving the right to intervene

but also send a letter stating the above concerns the Commission has to the NHDES.

Ms. Roman stated that the Wetlands working group was nearing completion on the Draft Wetlands Ordinance and it will be likely be presented to the WCC and Planning Board, probably in July. The working group is still working on several provisions of the draft including non-conforming lots (grandfathering), permitted/prohibited /conditional permitted uses and the means of assuring consistency between the wetland ordinance provisions and the existing zoning provision. Ms Roman stated that the working group is seeking to create a draft ordinance that is protective, fair and enforceable. Several maps have been developed for administering regulations including one from the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission. Ms. Roman will try to coordinate a joint meeting between WCC and the Webster Planning Board.

A discussion followed regarding our education efforts and there were general expressions of appreciation for Dan Moran's first video on the Vernal Pools of Webster. The next topic will be a general examination of the crucial importance of wetlands. Subsequent videos will explain the various types of wetlands and what differs among them. Moran was pleased to have any and all information that might be offered by WCC members. He will continue to make clear that the wetlands discussed are all in the Town of Webster. All photos and videos will continue to show places in Webster. The members also suggested seeking information from Bob Quinn and Mr Moran explained that the sites of the Vernal Pools in the first video were suggested by Mr Quinn through Betsy Janeway. Isabel Brintnall let us know that those pool are right by her house. Ms Brintnall will be contacting Mr Quinn to ask for his involvement in the education effort. Further information can come from the GZA Report to WCC. Ms Janeway let Mr. Moran know that all of the photos and videos he took with her from his canoe for a video on Marshes, were actually photos and videos of a Fen. Mr Moran was quietly confused but determined to get it right. Respectfully Submitted-

Dan Moran
Commissioner