

YORK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2015

Attendees

Officers: Jeff Normandin, Michael Morgillo, Kelli Gardner
Members: Priscilla Cookson
Visitors: Luke Conte, Michael Schambach

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Jeff Normandin

Jeff Normandin welcomed all and called the meeting to order in the library at 7:03 PM. Jeff acknowledged our visitors as prospective Conservation Commission Board members and asked them to introduce themselves - names stated above. Jeff then distributed the Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission Newsletter, noting that the SMPDC has moved from Sanford to Saco, and the proposed single-use plastic carryout bag ordinance.

2. Single-use plastic carryout bag ordinance

Discussion surround whether the commission would take a position on the ordinance in advance of the November 3rd election. Commission members unanimously felt there was limited time until the election in order to sufficiently study the ordinance, and as such, the commission would not take a public position on the ordinance at this time.

3. Goals / Process

Members discussed need for specific goals and a process for how various town agencies can engage the commission with respect to issues and process. Members felt that the commission can be of better use to the planning board, code enforcement and the selectmen. The commission decided that it would put together a list of instances and guidelines for which the Commission should be notified and engaged, and a process for such notification and engagement. Members felt that it was important to have some process and procedure in place in order to make the commission more relevant to town operations and readily able to make an impact. The commission wants to be proactive and position itself as a resource for other town boards.

4. Letter from Steve Burns

Mike Morgillo circulated the letter that he received from Steve Burns asking the commission to undertake a natural resources inventory and put together a list of priorities for conservation. Discussion ensued regarding the level of detail requested with respect to a natural resources inventory, and member's concluded that the focus of the request should be more on how the inventory impacts the town's priorities for conservation and not on a detailed, formal natural resources inventory. Priscilla Cookson had many very detailed thoughts on various specific conservation issues, but the commission discussed not delving into detail at this time, and instead having each conservation commission member bring to our next meeting their top ten priorities for town conservation. At the next meeting, the members agreed that they would share individual lists and begin drafting formal recommendations for priorities for conservation to provide to Steve Burns. Jeff indicated that he would bring a map to the next meeting so that the commission could discuss priorities in the context of the different natural resource locations.

5. Officers

The full board unanimously ratified the election of officers that took place at the September meeting, electing Jeff Normandin Chair, Michael Morgillo Treasurer and Kelli Gardner Secretary.

6. Other business

Members discussed holding meetings the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Pricilla indicated that did not work for her schedule. Members decided to hold its next meeting Wednesday November 18th at 7pm at the library due to the prior week being Veteran's day. Further discussion regarding a set meeting schedule will be undertaken at the next meeting where the commission hopes to have additional new members.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Kelli P. Gardner