

Charlotte Conservation Commission

Draft Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2015

In attendance: Fritz Tegatz, Robert Hyams, Howard Verman, Roel Boumans, Derk Bergquist

Guests: Jeannine McCrumb, Amos

DECISIONS

DISCUSSION POINTS

II. Jeannine McCrumb

--Jeannine wanted to discuss where the planning and conservation commissions may cooperate and what direction the conservation commission is taking.

--Roel indicated the CCC is trying to increase its membership and reset where it is placing its effort

--Invasive species is one area the CCC would like to concentrate on more.

--It may be beneficial to centralize all the invasive species activities under the Charlotte Invasives Cooperative.

--Regarding site visits, Jeannine would like to see the CCC involved during the sketch phase. Roel asked whether there is some product (letter, checklist) the planning commission wants. Jeannine said a focus on areas of high public value is key, but if we want to comment on other topics such as water quality, that is welcome.

--Bob asked how we know which applications to comment on. Jeanine indicated that discussions at sketch can be informal since everything is conceptual at that point.

--Roel asked Jeanine if we can have some information about which conservation maps would be most helpful to address each of the 7 ecological principles.

--The Town Plan also has some language that suggests economic development is hindered by conservation principles. Roel feels the conservation principles can be the basis for or supporting economic activity.

--Mel also brought up whether we should be concerned about how to protect the Town from litigation based on development decisions. The Town has not had a lot of problems with litigation because most people will plan around the points we raise to them. The idea is to get these points raised during sketch before a developer gets too far down the road.

--Mel asked about the inclusion of historical and cultural resources in CCC by-laws. Are we still supposed to be doing that? There is an historic sites and districts layer (local) available. There is also some state archaeological data available. There was a group in 1999 who evaluated views and vistas, but that data may need to be revisited.

--The property at the southeast corner of Mt Philo and One Mile is slated to be subdivided and developed with nine lots. Site review for this is scheduled for Feb 21. Jeannine will send out the sketch plan.

III. Sue Smith Application

--Bob went on a site visit and he said things seem to be going fine. It is a 10-acre lot being subdivided, sold to her daughter to build a house. Bob asked whether they had to come before the planning commission. Because it was subdivided, it had to come before commission. If it is already a single lot and someone is building a first house, they do not have to come before commission; also if a smaller accessory dwelling were built on same lot, they would not have to be reviewed.

IV. Site visits

- Several members of the Commission suggested that communication of potential conservation issues at the site visit could help landowners
- Bob pointed out that the site visit should be about information gathering and the sketch review is the place for communicating concerns/issues.

V. Meeting with Monkton and New Haven Commissions

- Purpose was to share what different Conservation Commissions were doing.
- The Monkton CC focus has been on informational presentations, and they have seen great attendance and involvement. They seemed interested in coordinating natural resources management between towns.
- There is interest to engage public more in Charlotte. In the past we have had a large map at the Town Party where people could put their wildlife sightings. There is interest in doing it again this year.

VI. Recruiting Members for Commission

- Howard has been talking to someone who keeps track of local wildlife.
- Several other commissioners; some seem promising.

VII. Invasive species

- We need to determine whether some other group is interested in taking over invasive species activities in town.
- It is unclear whether CHIC is the appropriate entity as it is more of an ad hoc committee.
- There was a long discussion about whether invasive species should be part of CCC activities

Next Meeting Agenda Points:

- 1) Determine which maps correspond to which of the seven ecological principles.
- 2) Discussion of commissioners' interests

Meeting adjourned