

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes (via zoom)  
December 2, 2020  
4:00 PM  
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Chairman Frank Lombardi called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM.

**Members Present:** Frank Lombardi - Chairman, Marcia Hammon, Marsha Lombardi, Edith Worcester, Donald LaPlante and Joyce McGee – Acting Secretary. Late arriving Valerie Yelton

**Public Present:** Jon Swan, Sarah Doucette and Jeanne Robillard – Save Forest Lake

**New Business:**

NHDES Wetland Application #2020-02239: Granite State Landfill, Dalton, NH.

Chairman Lombardi asked Sarah Doucette to fill the Board in on how the meeting went with Town of Whitefield Board of Selectmen on November 30, 2020. Mrs. Doucette stated that they primarily talked about goal actions that the Select Board might take on the traffic impact. The Board is waiting to hear from NHDOT and their 10-year traffic plan. Mrs. Doucette is hoping they will come forward with a better stance, a more powerful position once they follow up with the State plan and look at the traffic study prepared for Granite State Landfill, LLC.

Jon Swan spoke about NHDES application that was filed. Mr. Swan stated that further information was needed and they Casella has a lot of hoops to jump through. NHDES has been quite responsive on the comments that they have received. He is hoping that the Conservation Commission would make a clear statement on what impact it would have on the Lakes and Town. It's a bad deal for the North Country and Whitefield. Comments on the application can be made until January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Marcia Hammon felt it was like the Northern Pass fight, all elected officials need to take a position. We need to emphasize on the beauty of the area, quality of life and the negative impact on the region, traffic and environment.

Edith Worcester wondered if Whitefield needed to do a Wetlands Impact Study. Donald LaPlante agreed that you need proof or a study that wetlands will be impacted before stating it has a negative impact.

Jeanne Robillard stated that the Commission can say, because there are wetlands between Burns Lake and Forest Lake that they are requesting more studies to be done on the Wetland Impact in those areas.

Chairman Lombardi advised that the Natural Resource Study was done in 2005 for the Town. Donald LaPlante wondered about a Hydrological Study. He also thought a traffic study of Whitefield would be good as truck traffic coming down Rte 3 from Twin Mountain could be a disaster for the entrance to the Whitefield Elementary School.

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Jon Swan felt it would be a decline in property tax, the turning radius of the trucks would make the current triangle of downtown to be widened. Mr. Swan showed a preferred truck route which indicated Rte 3 thru Town of Carroll, to Whitefield, Bethlehem and then into Dalton. Casella wants to avoid Littleton. Jeanne Robillard stated that leakage, air pollution and trash would increase.

Marcia Hammon – Can we make an impact with our comments? Mr. Swan stated that NHDES is very receptive, the Commission will carry a lot of weight.

Donald LaPlante wondered about getting ideas from Fish & Game with what the impact on wildlife would be. Mr. Swan stated that their committee has reached out to every agency.

Chairman Lombardi felt there would be an issue with constant noise in the background.

Edith Worcester wondered what Dalton Conservation Commission had done. Mr. Swan stated that some of the members have a conflict of interest. Looking at hiring a Wetlands expert to evaluate application. Jeannie Robillard thought by looking at material from the Northern Pass and different species that might be impacted. Need to look at other information as not to reinvent the wheel.

Sarah Doucette felt that the Natural Resources need to be focused on. Water, wildlife, contamination of surface water and ground water, dust, seagulls and the eco system.

At this time Valerie Yelton joined the meeting.

Marcia Hammon stated that we need to create a broader network of supporters. It would be wise to have a petition. Chairman Lombardi stated that could be done.

Everyone agreed the letter to NHDES should request more study of the impact of wetlands, hydrology, traffic concerns in town by current triangle, noise, safety issue by school, environmental impact (Lakes, River and water), wildlife impact. Donald LaPlante felt a separate meeting to create a letter should be scheduled, this would give everyone time to think about it.

Chairman Lombardi wondered if it was at a Regional Impact level yet? Mr. Swan suggested to reach out to North Country Council as they are the regional contact and see if a regional impact study could be done, also reach out to the County Commissioners and State Representatives.

Mrs. Doucette advised that until a formal application has been filed with the Town of Dalton for the landfill North Country Council would have to wait to make a comment. North Country Council should be cc'd in the letter the Commission writes.

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Valerie Yelton felt involvement from the High School students would be good as they would have a stake in this and make them aware. Chairman Lombardi asked if she wanted to spearhead this. Mrs. Doucette advised that Tom Tower has a presentation that he would be more than happy to share with the school and any organization.

Jeanne Robillard thought that NRI was earmarking endangered species that were found in the wetland habitat and could be threatened. Edith Worcester thinks some kind of plant might be near there. Ms. Robillard will go through the NRI report.

Chairman Lombardi asked if any of them could give the Commission material to copy and paste to make letter more binding. Mr. Swan stated we are fighting for the future.

Donald LaPlante asked what happens in Bethlehem when at the end of space and decommission begins. Mr. Swan stated it's an issue. Ms. Yelton stated that once closed monitoring begins. Ms. Robillard advised that the host community is left with the landfill forever, it will never be eliminated.

Mr. Swan indicated that the size would be twice the area of current landfill in Bethlehem. Mrs. Doucette stated it would be the largest one. Ms. Yelton asked about road modifications, sidewalks could we ask Casella to pay or is Whitefield on its own? Ms. Robillard stated the host community has options with negotiations but not any of the neighboring Towns.

Marcia Hammon and Edith Worcester both agreed they were against having Casella come to Dalton and would like to see a petition put together. Chairman Lombardi thought maybe a press release with a link to a petition for Whitefield voters, have the Selectmen represent the people of Whitefield. Mrs. Doucette stated that at the 2020 Town Meeting the voters opposed Landfill Development in Dalton

Mrs. Hammon thought an informational sheet was important to raise awareness in Whitefield. Mr. LaPlante felt the letter needs to come first then petition, outreach and education.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:00 PM to work on letter. Chairman Lombardi will set up zoom meeting. He asked Mr. Swan, Ms. Robillard and Mrs. Doucette if they wanted to join they could and thanked them for their involvement, we appreciate all your work!

**A motion was made by Valerie Yelton to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 PM, seconded by Marcia Hammon. All in favor, meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce A. McGee – Acting Secretary

Frank Lombardi - Chairman

