

Conservation Commission Minutes
12/19/16

Attending: Dan Hogan, Bob McKeagney, Meg Braley, Jody Meredith, Rick Foss-Lacey, Bret Bergst. Absent: Megan Sheehan, Bob Klotz, Barbara Dee

Minutes: from 12/5/15 were approved

Memo to City Manager: Memo requesting a workshop with City Council has been passed on to the council and is supported by the City Manager. We will hear about a possible workshop soon.

CBEP Grant: Nothing new to report

Open Space Planning: Rick, Dan, and Barbara attended the recent meeting. There is some question about why some parcels were determined to be outside of the committee's scope. Dan has suggested a rating system (gold, silver, bronze) offering different levels of protection to parcels based on their significance.

Freshwater Compensation Fund Proposal: Basic concept is in place - still waiting to inform city councilors. Bob McKeagney has gone back to flesh out the tools needed for the proposal such as: application forms, criteria for awards, public announcements. Input from city staff is being solicited as needed.

Sentry Article Discussion: Several conservation related topics were mentioned by former Mayor Tom Blake in a recent Sentry article. These include the condition of the pond near the end of Mildred Street, Old Joe's Pond, Portland Street Pier and surrounding development land, Barberry Creek, and use of the Freshwater Compensation Fund. Members discussed these issues as well as Mr. Blake's comments. We decided to reach out to him to hear more directly about these issues. Dan will contact him.

Planning for Upcoming City Council Workshop: We discussed the overall goals for the meeting.

- to inform the Council about the status of the Commission and its projects
- to request a change to have nine Commission members
- to develop a plan to improve communication between the Commission and the City Council
- to have a common set of goals/vision for the Commission in the future

Topics will be presented as follows:

1. Introduction and overview for workshop goals - Megan
2. Freshwater Compensation Fund Grants - Bob M.
3. Open Space Committee - Barbara Dee
4. CBEP Grant Planning - Jody
5. Request for nine member Commission - Megan
6. Communication with City Council - Megan