



New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development

FINAL MINUTES – July 8, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Taylor Caswell, Chair, Commissioner, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Shawn Jasper, Commissioner, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Foods
John Martin, Designee, NH Department of Health and Human Services
Adam Smith, Designee, NH Department of Transportation
Jack Ruderman, Designee, NH Housing Finance Authority
Amy Clark, Designee, NH Department of Education
Stephen McLocklin, Designee, NH Department of Administrative Services
Nadine Miller, Designee, NH Division of Historical Resources (non-voting member)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Michael Klass, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs Office of Planning and Development
Noah Hodgetts, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs Office of Planning and Development
Lou Barker, NH Department of Transportation Bureau of Rail & Transit
Wes Anderson, Laconia Department of Public Works

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened at 11:03 AM by Chairman Caswell who noted he was the new Chairman as a result of the Office of Planning and Development (former Office of Strategic Initiatives Planning Division) moving to the Department of Business and Economic Affairs. CORD members and guests then introduced themselves.

II. MINUTES

- A. Approval of May 13, 2021 draft minutes

MOTION: On a motion by Commissioner Jasper, seconded by Mr. Ruderman, the May 13, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously by the Council, with Ms. Miller abstaining.

III. SURPLUS LAND REVIEW

- B. 2021 SLR 003 (Laconia)

Request from the Department of Transportation to grant an easement on certain railroad land to the City of Laconia.

Lou Barker, Rail Planner with the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail and Transit explained that DOT and the City of Laconia are trying to address a situation where a portion of Paugus Park Road in Laconia is on state property. The proposed easement will document that Paugus Park Road and part of the associated road's existing drainage is on 52,500 sq. ft. of state property so that the City of Laconia doesn't have to notify DOT every time it wants to make changes to the road and drainage system. The easement is therefore mutually beneficial to both the City of Laconia and the State. He noted that DOT has proposed using an easement instead of selling the property to retain the ability for the state to install a second track in the future, but that it still requires a surplus land request. Mr. Barker then offered to take questions.

Mr. Klass noted that, as usual, notice was given to various parties to provide comment including to the Lakes Region Planning Commission, the Lakes Management Advisory Committee, and the Rivers Management Advisory Committee. Mr. Klass stated that he received one comment from DHR that seemed consistent with language in the proposed SLR application as a proposed condition that the easement should be contingent on the findings of a Phase 1A/1B archaeological survey.

Mr. Barker said he would like to avoid the archaeological assessment since DOT does not propose changing anything and nothing has been changed in over 100 years. The city is simply trying to replace the drainage that was put in prior to the City of Laconia acquiring the road by the owners of the waterfront properties on the other side of Paugus Park Road. Mr. Anderson noted that prior to the 1980's Paugus Park Road was a private road and that when the City of Laconia accepted the road as part of the betterment process it didn't realize that part of the road was in the railroad right of way.

Mr. Barker said that DOT is trying to do this without cost to the City or state and that there would be significant cost to satisfy the historic preservation requirements.

Ms. Miller noted that DHR's request [for a Phase 1A/1B archaeological survey] was only necessary if there was going to be a major land disturbance. Since this seems unlikely, she said that DOT could submit a Request for Project Review (RPR) Form under a streamlined process, to show drainage areas where DOT anticipates potential ground disturbance. Ms. Miller clarified that this form can be filled out by a lay person at no cost. She noted that it seems unlikely there will be any archaeological issues, but this way DHR can provide quick clearance assuming there is no major land disturbance instead of requiring a full Phase 1A/1B survey.

Mr. Anderson said the City of Laconia has inherited something it is trying to fix. Ms. Miller said that any additional work in the future which requires EPA Stormwater permits would likely trigger additional DHR review. Mr. Anderson noted the next project, which is up to the residents, is to replace the culverts that go through individual properties, which can be a challenge given that several cabins have been turned into mini-mansions.

Mr. Barker said the easement will help maintain the buffer between Paugus Park Road and the railroad, which is beneficial to the DOT Bureau of Rail and Transit. Ms. Miller said that a DHR archaeologist can do a site visit if needed.

MOTION: Commissioner Jasper made a motion seconded by Mr. Martin to recommend approval of 2021 SLR 003. The motion was approved unanimously by the Council with Mr. Smith abstaining.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: With business completed, Commissioner Jasper moved to adjourn the meeting, which Mr. Smith seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM

Reminder – Tentative 2021 Meeting Dates

January 14
July 8

March 11
September 9

May 13
November 10