



PLANNING BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE ON WETLAND BUFFERS MEETING
LOCATION: TOWNHALL LANDUSE OFFICE
333 CALEF HIGHWAY
BARRINGTON, NH 03825

Tuesday May 8, 2018
3:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Members

Jeff Brann
Fred Nichols
Donna Massucci arrived at 3:50 p.m.
Doug Bogen
Ken Grossman
John Huckins

Staff

Marcia Gasses

Guests

Christopher Berry, Principal; Berry Surveying and Engineering
Cynthia M. Balcius CSS, CWS, & CPESC, Principal; Stoney Ridge Environmental

Without objection the minutes of April 24, 2018 were approved.

1) Introductions

The members introduced themselves.

2) Discuss wetlands functions and values

F. Nichols explained the group had looked at the concept wetlands buffer scale.

C. Berry expressed that he preferred that the buffer be set and relief be asked for impact based upon a point system.

J. Huckins expressed he preferred rating wetlands based upon the type of wetland.

F. Nichols asked if there was a better way of creating buffers.

Cynthia Balcius explained that wetlands were complex. More significant wetlands water quality, water quantity, wildlife habitat.

F. Nichols expressed there could be buffers based on 5-7 categories and values.

Cynthia Balcius named the two prime evaluating systems; Cowardin Classification System, and a NH Method and Army Core of Engineers highway methodology.

EPA 50' buffer for water quality with relief granted.

F. Nichols wanted to come up with 5 categories of wetlands and tie a buffer to those specific types of wetlands.

C. Berry asked was there a problem they were trying to fix.

F. Nichols expressed that he was hoping that they could develop a regulation that would be fair and based upon science that people would then leave alone.

Cynthia expressed that some of the buffer numbers were so large they did not make sense. When it comes to water quality and there was open land 50-70 ft. once stabilization occurs the requirement is much less.

F. Nichols asked whether they could come up with categories and a number they could apply to it. The department had money to use to hire someone to come up with the information.

K. Grossman asked about exemplary and critical habitat and did it overlap.

Cynthia expressed it could.

Cynthia expressed it is important to know what is important to know what was important.

J. Huckins expressed water quality, flood control, and wildlife habitat.

J. Huckins motioned for Cynthia to put together a cost for putting together at proposal that would identify the different categories of wetlands and the types of values they have and a recommend a buffer size. She will send information from other states to review. J. Brann seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Without objection the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia J Gasses
Town Planner & land Use Administrator