

Wetlands Buffer Ordinance Sub Committee Draft Minutes 2-3-15 6:33 pm

- Minutes from last meeting approved.
- Steve asked if we had a need to consider input from outside organizations like fish & game, PRLAC, or SNPC. Agreed that we may reach out as needed for expert advice.
- Bruce discussed briefly the Salem and Nashua ordinances. Noted the NH F&G Vernal Pool Identification Book. Steve reviewed it briefly on line. It's a comprehensive manual.
- Steve recommended we define wetlands as the NH DES currently define it, which is the ACOE '87 Manual.
- Steve recommended we do not identify our designated prime wetlands as any particular automatic setback or buffer. Tom agreed in that out prime wetlands, perkins pond mash, would not qualify under current criteria.
- Bruce recommended considering a progressive setback based on slope: up slope development would be more while down slope development would be less. This addresses sediment and nitrate transport.
- Some discussion on wildlife/riparian corridors ensued. Agreed tis should be considered.
- Tom likes the Amherst approach. Steve also likes Amherst and also Portsmouth. Portsmouth has a nice graphic. We agree a poster to supplement the ordinance would be good.
- Agreed that an additional 25 ft setback to the buffer seems reasonable. Also that the buffer should be progressive in that it should allow limited cutting within 50 ft. of the house or building to protect against large trees falling like Easter White Pine.
- Buffer identification was discussed. We agree that if we incorporate this, it would be only on the development side of a wetland. Steve also suggested on vary large lots that had significant, hundreds of feet, between wetland and development, placard's may not be necessary. Steve suggested identifying a distance to development triggering buffer placards. Bruce suggested a standard identification placard. Steve suggested a more permanent monument.
- Tom discussed the Amherst method in some detail with approaches Meridian uses with the Conditional use such as rain gardens, recharging rain water, porous pavers/pavement and riparian buffer plantings. Steve suggested using the Amherst approach as a template. All agreed to use it with input and considerations from other ordinance we review.
- Motion to adjourn by Tom at 7:54. Motion carries.