MINUTES
Wetland and Shoreland Committee
of the Conservation Commission
9:00 a.m. Upstairs Conference Room – Town Hall
January 26, 2023

Committee Members Present
Emily Friedrichs, Planning Board representative
Sally Needell, former Conservation Commission chair
Paul Rasmussen, Planning Board representative
Dwight Trueblood, Conservation Commission representative

Michael Behrendt, Town Planner

The committee talked about wildlife corridors and whether that should be part of this task. If it can be incorporated into the WCOD and SPOD readily then it makes sense to add this now. We could include reference to wildlife corridors in the Purpose statement. Perhaps we should add a definition of "Habitat."

The committee discussed these possible categories for types of wetlands:
- Bogs, Prime Wetlands, Rare and Exemplary Wetland Communities, and Vernal Pools.
- All tidal waters and tidal wetlands.
- Nontidal wetlands in Rural and Residential Coastal.
- Nontidal wetlands in other zoning districts.

Steep slopes was discussed. Emily suggested having a deeper buffer for steep slopes. Michael suggested having one specific set buffer for different types of wetlands but not varying it by site by site considerations.

There could be a 5th criterion dealing with slopes and other environmental impacts. There could be a 4th criterion for Permitted Use B.

The committee discussed how much it should set the buffers by the science vs. what was practical from a political or legal perspective. Michael suggested justifying significant increases from the existing buffers. The question is always: What is reasonable and what is unreasonable?

Emily said Exeter has a 300 foot tidal buffer. Michael said this might be if it is on the Squamscott River where it might be acceptable due to deep setbacks for development from the river.

The committee will try to finish the different wetland and shoreland categories and come up with buffer/setback numbers at the next meeting on February 9.

Respectfully submitted.
Michael Behrendt, Town Planner