

# The County of Hillsborough New Hampshire



Board of Commissioners

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## Agenda Hillsborough County Master Plan Committee December 14, 2007 8:00 a.m. Board of Commissioners Conference Room

Welcome/Open Meeting

Report from Wetlands Studies & Mapping

- Gove Environmental Services, Exeter, NH

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn

Meeting of the  
Hillsborough County Master Plan Committee

December 14, 2007  
Bouchard Building, Goffstown, NH

Minutes of the Public Session  
(Not Official Until Approved by the Board and signed by the Clerk.)

**Present:** Comm. C. Holden, G. Wenger, M. Castagna, F. Plett, L. Kaiser, D. Reidy, J. Sachs, M. Pilotte, and L. Stonner. Also present were F. Plett and S. Griffin who had to leave at 8:30. **Absent:** A. Peterson, P. LaFlamme, L. Calawa, R. Sawyer, and A. Renzullo.

**Welcome**

Comm. Holden opened the meeting at 8:32 and introduced Brendon Quigley from Gove Environmental Services. Comm. Holden noted that the Committee would approve the plan presented by Mr. Quigley at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Quigley presented a Power Point presentation of the Wetlands Studies and Mapping based on the information gathered by Gove Environmental Services as they walked and flagged the County's properties. Mr. Quigley noted that his company did wetland delineations of 485 acres of County property for use in future planning; his company considered wetland type and hydric soil, and the map identifies the topography of the land (with a scale of 3 meters).

The map that was produced by Gove Environmental is the main product of the report, which includes a table of all wetlands. Mr. Quigley informed the Committee that the main criteria in determining a wetland include wetland vegetation, hydric soil and wetland hydrology. Mr. Quigley noted differences in wetland type, vegetative composition, and soil type, informing the Committee those differences also are the product of the movement of water through or within the wetland, water quality, and the degree of natural or human-induced disturbance. In turn, the wetland soils and vegetation alter water velocities, and flow paths. The hydrologic and water-quality functions of wetlands, that is, the roles wetlands play in changing the quantity of water moving through them, are related to the wetland's physical setting.

Mr. Quigley informed the Committee that Gove Environmental hung 1700 flags (pink ribbons), representing 48 wetland areas, noting that the largest was parcel 6-33. He indicated that every flag was located using GPS technology. He reviewed each area with the Committee, noting that in some areas beaver dams hold back water, and in other areas water runs out of the ground or a hillside. Across the river, there are scoured channels: areas that get water first during flood stage and hold it the longest, noting that these areas should be a high priority to protect. Mr. Quigley informed the board that his company did not address habitat issues; their responsibility was to identify wetlands, and noted there is no strong evidence of vernal pools.

M. Castagna asked about how easy it would be to separate usable property.

Mr. Quigley responded that it is easy, and should consider general characteristics, small intermittent streams and use the blue polygons on the map (which show water or wetlands) to establish buffer zones. He also suggested that the County conduct a vernal pool study.

Comm. Holden noted that the County does have a County Forest Plan.

Mr. Quigley informed the Committee that it could consider land evaluation studies and noted there are some great conservation opportunities on the properties as well as restoration opportunities; there are some very deep areas where a lot of debris has collected.

Mr. Quigley was asked if his company identified the soil types; he noted they only identified two categories: poorly drained and easily drained. A soil survey is much more intense.

Mr. Wenger asked about the significance of vernal pools, to which Mr. Quigley responded that these areas are a wetland of special significance, which must be identified, given more scrutiny, and which are afforded a higher level of protection; they are bird environments, as well as environments for rare and endangered species.

Mr. Wenger noted that this is a step in the process, and asked what the next step might be. Mr. Castagna suggested that the Committee should consider the flood plain and wetland delineation so it can identify usable property for future development.

Mr. Quigley suggested that once the Committee considers the wetland type, the wetland designation and the soil type, they can then overlay that information on whatever base the Committee is using in its planning.

J. Sachs informed the board that a couple of the County wetlands have rare black gum trees, five are located in one area, suggesting that these trees should be protected.

Mr. Quigley noted that the County properties contain hemlock, red maple, blueberries with an edge of mountain laurel; there is a speckled alder swamp and a flood plain forest, sugar maple, various oaks and white pine. There is not a lot of diversity.

L. Kaiser asked if there is any place suitable for building across the river. Mr. Quigley informed the Committee that across the river, the limiting factor is a steep slope with full-fledged landslides, and noted that it is not very stable ground. He indicated that some very complicated engineering would have to be done to use that area where the steep slopes are located, noting that everything below the slopes is in a flood plain area or wetland. He also noted that there are a number of constraints to deal with in those two parcels that would probably preclude any heavy development.

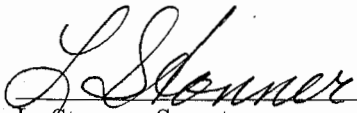
B. Quigley informed the Committee that he would provide the Committee with a CD version of the report, as well as a PDF file with the map that could be taken to a printer for reproducing.

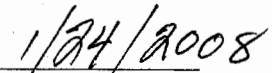
Discussion ensued regarding when/if the Committee should set another meeting date. Mr. Wenger suggested that the Committee consider a discussion of the plan because the budget planning process is soon to begin, and if the Committee wants to have funds allocated for this project, it should begin to develop a roadmap. Comm. Holden asked to have D. Reidy facilitate the next meeting so she could participate; he agreed to do that; however, he cannot attend the next meeting.

The next meeting will be Friday, January 11 at 8:00 a.m.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 A.M.

  
L. Stonner, Secretary

  
Date