

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes - Final
Tuesday, May 16, 2017 @ 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norman LaPierre

Members not present: Lyman Cousens, Alexandria Kyasky

Guest: Brian Adams, Penacook NH

Regular Business

- Open by Chair at 7:00 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the minutes of April 18, 2017. A **motion** to approve the Minutes was made by Abbe, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – An Audit P&L Report shows net income of \$104.72. The Balance Sheet shows a balance of \$131,252.27. Alan Hardy handed out a copy of the Forest Fund Balance Sheet. The Town Forest Fund has a balance of \$6,116.00.
- The Commission hired Charles Niebling to update the inventory of the Town Forest. They will pay him 50% of the \$3,500.00 price up front and the other 50% when he is done.

Old Business:

- **Charles Niebling Agreement:** A **motion** to accept the agreement and authorize the Chair to continue making payments according for the agreement they made was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.
- **Town Forester:** Charles Niebling.
- **Hardy Easement:** no new information. Norm LaPierre asked how many acres were involved. Tom Gilmore said approximately 80 acres. The property behind Hardy's property up to Beaver Dam Brook is already in an easement.
- **Town Forest trails sub-committee:** Brian Adams was introduced. Jeff Abbe said Brian has showed interest in working on the trails. He has cleaned up the forest trails this spring. He has used the forest. Brian lives on Elm Street and has access to Fish and Game property and the Town Forest. Brian noted that every spring and fall he usually goes in and does trail maintenance. There has been discussion to gather people to help with maintaining the Forest. Tom Gilmore said there is some talk about having the snowmobile club put another trail through there. Jeff Abbe said the connections of those are vital. Tom Gilmore noted that the snowmobile trail goes over the Kaufman property and Mr. Kaufman shuts it down sometimes. If the Snowmobile Club uses the Town Forest for access it would be better for them. Those trails can be used for biking, hiking, etc. Norm LaPierre explained where the trail would be located.
- **Letter Received:** A letter was received from Ms. Linda Rauter. She is asking for some trash to be cleaned up off the trail. Jeff Abbe will call her. He feels visible items on the surface should be cleaned up. Tom Gilmore asked if the highway department would take

care of it. Alan Hardy said the Commission can explore options. Alan Hardy discussed it with the Board of Selectmen who referred it to the Commission. Jeff Abbe asked if they put a pile by the road, would DPW come and pick it up. Alan Hardy said that the Police Department has army gators and it may be the best way to go in there and get it out. He also believes that if they got up to the gate he believes DPW would be glad to take it.

- **Town Forester:** Tom Gilmore said the contract from Charlie Niebling should be sent out to the Commission via email. Any logging that may be done would be whatever Mr. Niebling recommends. They will have to open the logging to bid. When the bid is written they will reserve the right to choose whomever the Conservation prefers regardless of price. Jeff Abbe said they should follow through with brush hogging in the spring and fall. They would like to know who is interested and what their price would be. Tom Gilmore noted that any monies made on logging over the \$4,000, if they have a plan as to how to use the money in the Forest they can make that presentation to the Selectmen. They can make a request to utilize and keep that money in the forestry account and the selectmen have the ability under law to be able to approve that. Jeff Abbe said that whatever logging is done out there would be done in small increments, he would think.
- **Hardy Easement:** Alan Hardy said that it is being worked on.
- **Snowmobile Trails:** Norm LaPierre said that the club wants to go forward to develop a trail. Tom Gilmore said he'd like to know what they want and the Commission will allow it. Norm LaPierre explained where they would like to place the trail. It would be on higher ground. Tom Gilmore said that the Fish and Game person was receptive to putting a bridge where the dam is located. Jeff Abbe noted there is a walking bridge about 2.5 to 3 feet wide by Hirst Marsh. Tom Gilmore said when they are ready to move forward they should connect with Jeff Abbe.
- **Maps:** Tom Gilmore asked about the new maps that were submitted. Jeff Abbe showed the Commission the Concord map. Alan Hardy asked what the final product would be, a big map or little maps. Jeff Abbe said one of each. One at the trail head and then fold some and put them at the trail head. Alan Hardy asked about the progress on the big guide. The map data should be on there. Alan Hardy said eventually there will be link on the Boscawen website to link to the maps. Jeff Abbe said that they could scale them differently. He also said Concord had an intern walk the trails with a GPS to make sure the distances were correct. Alan Hardy said Charlie Niebling will give them more corrected information. Tom Gilmore said the maps could be augmented once they have better access to the Barnard lot. Jeff Abbe said their next project would be to rework their trail book. Norm LaPierre asked if the trail was still marked. Jeff Abbe said it could use a little attention. Norm LaPierre asked if the reflectors were still on the tree. Jeff Abbe said they were. Tom Gilmore asked if Brian Adams biked on the long trail that goes to Old Weir Road. Brian said yes. He said he can leave his house and bike all the way to downtown Concord through the woods. Tom Gilmore said the maps are an asset. Norm LaPierre noted that if the trails were opened up more, more people would use it, i.e. the Dog sled people, snow shoe people, etc. Brian Adams said he'd help build trails.
- **Town Forest Consolidation:** At the June Planning Board meeting the consolidation will come forward. Alan Hardy will take care of it for the June 6th meeting. Tom Gilmore said he would come to that meeting.
- **Other Items:**
- Discussion regarding wood chip plans, etc.

- Discussion regarding the town forest entrance in front of Marshall's Firearms. Alan Hardy said they should move towards getting to Town meeting with a plan to get it declared town forest by the town. If Conservation owns it cannot be conveyed or resold. Charlie Niebling did tell them that it had been cut pretty heavily.
- Town Forest Consolidation discussion will be June 6th when it is presented to the Planning Board for merger.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm was made by Jeff Abbe, seconded by Norm LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: June 20, 2017 at 7pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife*