

Boscawen Conservation Commission
Final Minutes
Tuesday November 17, 2015

Commissioners Present: Deborah Hinds, Chair, Tom Gilmore, Pamela Hardy
Commissioner Absent: none
Alternate Commissioners Present: Norman LaPierre, Jeffrey Abbe

Others Present: Rose Fife, Recording Secretary, Alan Hardy. Planning & Community Development Director

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Jeffrey Abbe and Norman LaPierre will be voting members tonight.

Minutes:

Minutes from October 2015 meeting were not done as there was a recording error. The commission noted that the Appraisal that was noted on the agenda was approved that evening.

Treasurer's Report:

Pam Hardy reported that the Conservation Commission has \$187,132.65 in their account. There is an outstanding amount due to the account of \$3500 that hasn't been received yet for taxes. The Town Forest account has \$8,593.65. The new budget for 2016 needs to be done. They have, in the past had \$400 in the professional services account, \$500 in the mapping account, \$350 in the Dues and Fees account, \$200 in the Meeting/Travel account, and \$750 in the supplies account. The Commission has only used \$420 on dues and fees and spent \$35 on supplies. Pam asked the Commission if they would like to leave the budget the same for next year. Deb Hinds said yes as she thinks that they need to do mapping, etc. next year. Pam Hardy suggested they increase the dues and fees account; maybe change supplies to \$650 and move that money into dues/fees. They have only used 20.7% of the budget. Jeff Abbe asked if they would lose the money if it's not used. Pam Hardy said yes. Money can only be encumbered if there was a contract/quote in hand.

Old Business:

Town Forest:

Deb Hinds said that the brochures for the Town Forest may need to get printed up. Jeff Abbe said maps will need to be printed up also. The maps need to be updated in the brochure.

Alan Hardy asked about the City of Concord working with Boscawen for the mapping. Rose Fife said she would talk with the City's GIS expert. Jeff Abbe said that he'd like to see the trail head map minimized and put into their brochure. Deb Hinds liked the idea of putting the map as the center page of the brochure. Jeff Abbe stated that a PDF was sent to him from Concord. Jeff Abbe also asked about a survey and combining lots. Alan Hardy felt that combining lots would not be an issue. He'd like to get them combined and accept them as the Town Forest. Deb Hinds asked if that should be proposed at the Town Meeting. Alan Hardy said it would and it also would have to be presented as one lot. Deb Hinds asked about Voluntary Lot Merger being presented to the Planning Board; is this the process? Alan said it was the process. There is no hearing required. It would be done at a meeting of the Planning Board. Deb Hinds suggested that they do that at the next Planning Board meeting; ask to merge all the lots together for the Town Forest. Deb Hinds asked if they should propose a warrant for the new merged lot to be the Town Forest. Alan Hardy said yes. Much discussion ensued about how to go forward with this request.

Deb Hinds said a nice clean base map would be nice to have. The Conservation Commission could add to it at a later date. Alan Hardy said they could work with Avitar to get a clean map. Norm LaPierre said that they have

had the property surveyed 2 or 3 times in the past. He asked if there were any records. Alan explained. Deb Hinds suggested sending packets out for bids to surveyors.

Bittersweet Weir Road Town Forest

Jeff Abbe met with Doug Sigon last Thursday morning. He wanted to know what area the Commission wanted to cover. Jeff Abbe chose the around foundation and door yard. Doug Sigon told him that he would use Round Up and another chemical. They would need to cut a 20 foot grid so he could spray. He would do it in June. It's a 3 or 4 stage treatment. All leaves should be on the Bittersweet by June and he can spray in June, August and he following June. He would follow it through the 3 treatments. Deb Hinds asked if there were a certain amount of time that people would need to keep out of the sprayed area. Jeff Abbe said that Doug would be using Round Up so it should be safe. Deb Hinds asked for a cost. Jeff Abbe said it's free to Boscawen as Doug is from the Department of Agriculture. Conservation Commission should post it in the newspaper to promote what he is doing. Norm LaPierre asked if the Commission paid for the material. Jeff Abbe believes it comes out of the Dept. of Ag's budget. John Keegan from AGCOM is proposing to go to the Selectmen and Jeff Abbe would volunteer to go with him to request an appropriation of \$2,000 for a spray treatment per year. Alan Hardy said that not all AGCOM members were in favor of it as they would be using town money to spray on private property. He's proposing to do it on public/town property. They are trying to put together a budget for a commercial applicator. AGCOM does have a commercial applicator now. Norm LaPierre asked if they were licensed. Alan Hardy said yes. Alan Hardy said that it was suggested that they discuss eradicating invasive on town property. Deb Hinds supported that idea as it would be for town property. Jeff Abbe will continue to discuss this with John Keegan of AGCOM.

A motion to allow Jeff Abbe to continue discussions with John Keegan of AGCOM was made by Tom Gilmore, seconded by Deb Hinds and passed by a unanimous vote.

Jeff Abbe stated that to the left of the kiosk in the Town Forest is an open well. They stood a large branch up into it so that the well was visible. Norm LaPierre said that there was talk years ago about trying to get it capped. Jeff said that the bittersweet grew up tall enough that they couldn't see the well. Deb Hinds asked the diameter of the well. Jeff Abbe said it was about 5 feet deep and about 2.5 foot around. The one behind the foundation is probably about 4x4 or 3x3. Alan Hardy asked if a manhole cover would work; or a well cover. They could possibly bring it up there with a tractor or loader.

Deb Hinds mentioned Coldbrook Gravel. She asked if they were coming in for any wetlands permits. Alan Hardy said they and Planning are waiting for AOT to trigger. Tim Bernier has not come back or replied to requests. He suggested that Conservation could send a letter to Planning saying that they did ask Bernier to come and make a presentation to this commission and he hasn't done so, so the Commission is asking that they please take no action. Send a cc of that letter to Tim Bernier. Deb Hinds will discuss this with Kellee Jo Easler on Wednesday.

New Business:

On January 1, 2016 both Pam Hardy and Deb Hinds will no longer be on the Conservation Commission Board. Pam Hardy will still do the financials.

Alan Hardy handed out a letter regarding Wild and Scenic to Mr. Green from Bill Murphy. Some discussion ensued regarding this letter.

NHACC Annual Meeting

Jeff Abbe attended. He felt it was well done. Nick Coates, the new Executive Director would like to come and talk to Boscawen. He learned that there are endless resources available to this Commission.

Alan Hardy said that Craig Saltmarsh is not running for the Board of Selectmen but said he would like to be an active member to this commission. Jeff Abbe stated that the commission should do some recruiting. He asked how they should go about it. He said that there is a pool of information and talent out there that would be available to the Commission to help. He learned what is out there for help to even put together a forestry plan. Tim Fleury from UNH extension talked about how to get a management plan together, etc. He learned about deed restrictions, etc. NHMA was also another resource available. Alan Hardy said the Town is a member of NHMA. Other ideas to get people involved included moonlight hikes, a vernal pool party, etc. There was information on grants that are available. He had a bountiful amount of information from this meeting. Deb Hinds asked for a copy of some of the information he received.

Appraisal for 83 45 on Webster/Boscawen Town Line

Deb Hinds said there is a forestry notice for a property at map 83 lot 44 property. Alan Hardy stated that it is a 100 acre cut over there. Jeff Abbe asked if they applied for an Intent to Cut. Alan Hardy said yes. Jeff Abbe asked if it was selective cut. Alan Hardy stated that it was.

The Bernier lot appraisal report was given to the Commission. The packet contained photos of Lot 45, map 83, Queen Street. Deb Hinds asked if there was a house or building on the property? The way the appraisal is written it seems that there was one noted. Jeff Abbe said he thinks its comparisons. Alan Hardy said that there is no building out there. It's an error. Deb and Jeff agreed that \$30,000 was reasonable as the potential for development was low and it is land locked. Tom Gilmore thought it was a reasonable price. Deb Hinds asked Alan Hardy how to go forward with the purchase? Alan Hardy said the next step is the Board of Selectmen to see if they concur. He also said that they had to consult with the selectmen. Conservation Commission does act on its own. **A motion** to move forward and present to the Selectmen property located at Tax Map 83, Lot 45 for the price of \$30,500 as noted on the appraisal was made by Deb Hinds, seconded by Tom Gilmore and passed by a unanimous vote. Jeff Abbe would like to be involved with the discussion with the selectmen. Deb Hinds asked to have it put on the next selectmen's meeting; 12/2/15. Jeff Abbe asked how to present it. Deb Hinds said that they need copies of the appraisal and she will note the lot on a map, discuss its abutting the Town Forest and it being a good addition to the Forest. Deb asked about how much it was assessed for. Alan Hardy stated \$115,200 for 89 acres. It has a current use credit which takes it down to \$4,000.

Alan Hardy had a bill for \$250 for the appraisal. Deb Hinds said that the bill was approved for payment.

Jeff Abbe discussed recruitment of new members. Pam said they should do that at a town meeting. Alan Hardy said to ask the Selectmen to put something into the News Vine.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm was made by Deb Hinds, seconded by Tom Gilmore and passed by a vote.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on December 15, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rose Fife