

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes - Draft
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 @ 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norman LaPierre, Lyman Cousens, Alan Hardy,
Planning & Community Development Director
Absent: None.

Regular Business

- Open by Chair at 7:00 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the minutes of prior meeting minutes. A **motion** to approve the Minutes was made by Abbe, seconded by LaPierre, passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – none submitted. Gilmore stated that they have not spent any money this month.

Old Business:

- Town Forester Charles Niebling – Presented an Inventory Report to the Commission. It includes a schedule of Management activity. The first action under the schedule of proposed activity is a sale in Stand 2. The map included in the Inventory Report shows where the “stands” are. Stand 2 has a very high density of mature pine on both east and north and northwest sides of the old landfill site. Some of those trees are over 100 years old. There is a huge cone crop this year also. There is an opportunity to rely on natural seeding and regeneration. He has spent the last couple of weeks marking the stand and measured every tree he's marked. He marked almost 300,000 board feet of high quality pine. He marked 553 trees which is 199,000 of white pine saw logs, some pallet grade pine, a small amount of hemlock, red oak and red maple. Some low grade hardwood would also come out of the sale. He would like to see them harvest half of the mature pine. He submitted a map showing the patch cuts, etc. He left a buffer of 200 feet along Daghody Hill trail. He left a deep buffer along the landfill area. The Town Forest has an existing landing that was utilized by the last two loggers that did a cut. He gave an estimate of revenue that the timber harvest would bring in. Gilmore would like him to also look at the Creaser property. Niebling went through the packet he submitted to the Commission and explained its contents. The packet included a bid notice document which shows the estimated volume. Lyman asked where the timber tax would go. Hardy explained it goes to the town's general funds. Abbe asked Niebling what stumpage was. Niebling explained that it is the value of the tree on the stump. Niebling proposed a showing on October 4th. It's not a mandatory showing. They reserve the right to reject all and any bids. October 9th at 3 pm the bids will need to be in. It would be submitted in a sealed bid. Niebling proposed the Commission opens the bid 2 days later on October 11th. Hardy stated that he doesn't believe they can open the bid in non-public session. Gilmore asked Abbe if he'd be joining them. Abbe said probably not. Gilmore asked if they could all make it at 7 pm on October 9th – a Monday. Niebling believes the Commission needs to do a legal notice for the bid. Gilmore asked Hardy to take care of that. Niebling also noted that he also put a list at the end of the packet of people he would feel comfortable with logging the property. Hardy noted that he believes the Commission should consult with the Board of Selectmen if they would like to go forward. Gilmore asked when the next meeting was. Hardy said Wednesday, September 20th at 4:30 pm. A **motion** that Gilmore make a presentation to the Town Selectmen was made by Abbe, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote. Niebling noted on the 2nd page he submitted a standard

timber sale contract that he uses that would become the basis between the town and the contractor. The town would also need to file a wetlands notification with DES for the small swale on the property. Patch cuts need a waiver from RSA227J which is a formality. He has also offered to do an informational presentation for the community. He thought to advertise it in the Newline in October. He also thought to put an article in the Newline by October 15th for a walk or an informational forum. Hardy said that it would be telling people there would be a cut going on and normally for 2 or 3 days after a cut begins the office gets phone calls. Hardy asked the Commission if they would like him to discuss the timber cut with the new Concord Monitor reporter. The Commission concurred that it would be good for him to talk with the reporter about this. Gilmore noted that Niebling agreed to hold off being paid until they received the proceeds from the timber cut. Abbe noted that he thinks the truck road should be the main snowmobile access through the Forest.

- Hardy Easement Update – Hardy said there is no update.
- Snowmobile Trails – nothing to report. They had a meeting beginning of September.
- Town Forest Consolidation: LOT MERGER Hardy noted that he lots have been merged.
- Town Forest trails sub-committee – Abbe has nothing to report. Gilmore noted that he may want to review where the Commission would like to do trail improvements. Abbe wants to have permission to do something with invasive on Farmstead area. Abbe also noted that he would like to have the Forest mowed one more time this fall by John Fife. Abbe though maybe the end of October. Hardy asked if they should let Concord Conservation know that they are going to do a cut. Gilmore felt they should be sent a notice. A notice should be sent to Heather Shank, the City Planner as a courtesy.

New Business:

- PBWP land on Chadwick Hill – Gilmore has a meeting next Monday with the Water Authority. Hardy will also be there. Abbe feels that it would be a great idea to obtain that property. Gilmore asked Hardy if he had any idea what the cost would be to purchase. Hardy said it's an exempt property so no taxes are being paid. Hardy said it has a value of \$300,000. The tax value of the raw land of \$52,500. The balance of the acreage he thought may be around \$40,000.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm was made by Cousens, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2017 at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary