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CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

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

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norman LaPierre, and Lyman Cousens

Also present: Charles Niebling, Forester, and Rose Fife, recording secretary.

Guests: JoAnn Cassulo – Central NH Regional Planning Commission and Ray Mercier, Volunteer OSHA Lifelong Learning Institute at Granite State College

Regular Business

- Open by Chair at 7 pm
- Roll call
- Review and Acceptance of the 11.17.17 minutes. A **motion** to accept the Minutes was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – none.

Old Business:

- Hardy Easement Update – Tom reports they are moving forward. They are waiting for more information from the attorney and hope to close before the end of the year. Funding is available as it was provided by Mr. Tauber. Negotiations have been made. Assessment came out lower than they anticipated and Mr. Tauber offered more than the assessment. Listed as \$27,000. They offered Mr. Hardy \$40,000 and he accepted. Mr. Tauber has covered all expenses.
- Town Forest Update – Charlie Niebling reported. He submitted a summary of the harvest. The project netted \$57,366.31 in stumpage. Expenses occurred by additional aspects of the project that HFLC is in the process of completing, including the truck road and reclamation of Weir Farm field and reconstruction of Weir Farm access road. The final net to the Town Forest account is \$5,759.03. The town has received a check for \$13,782.42. A balance is owed back to HFLC and it is his recommendation that the town withholds that amount until their work is completed in the Spring. He drafted an addendum which shows tasks still needing to be completed by HFLC. Gilmore asked if the town needed to sign it. Niebling said he drafted it late Friday afternoon and hasn't been able to get with HFLC for signature, but he has spoken with Dave Herrick about it. Niebling thought they did a thorough job rebuilding it. HFLC has withheld subsequent stumpage checks beyond the \$13,782.42. Gilmore said they should plan another harvest soon so they can replenish their treasury more. The timber survey for the property town will need to be postponed. Abbe said that the punch list Niebling did is ideal. Niebling said that price includes bending the gate back to where it was originally. Gilmore asked if they were cleared out. Niebling said not quite yet. He will run the contract addendum by Dave Herrick Wednesday and if it is acceptable he will obtain signatures as needed. He would like to arrange a walk and wildlife assessment with the Fish and Game biologist. He can plan the layout for the sale next year.
- **Joann Cassulo (Master Plan Update) who works part time for Central NH Regional Planning Commission "Natural Resources"**. She works on master plans, and technical assistance to towns. She is working on the energy chapter, natural resources chapter and demographic chapter. She took the old chapters and went through them and inserted comments and questions. She would like the Conservation Commission's input.
- **Raymond Mercier**, guest. He is a volunteer for the OSHA Lifelong Learning Institute at Granite State College. He volunteers to give classes and take classes for people over 50. Last Fall Concord

Conservation Commission did a walk and he would like to do a hike through the Boscawen Town Forest nature trail. He decided to propose that as a class for May 2018. His idea is to take groups of 12 seniors for two consecutive days. He got in contact with Jeff Abbe and he's walked the forest a little bit and seen the forestry that has been done. This is a statewide program.

- Charlie left at 7:26 pm.
- Joann Cassulo continued her assessment of their document which she feels is very wordy. Gilmore feels it covers too many specifics. The verbiage should be general and have appendixes that have data. Cousens asked if she would be comfortable enough to rewrite it and bring it back to the Commission for review. She is, but she'd like to speak with Hardy first. They should have a section on 'challenges'. There should be new data on active farms and she will need the Commission's help with that information. She'd like to rename the chapter "Natural Resources". Does the commission still want an NRI? Discussion regarding mapping being included showing wetlands, etc. She's asking the Commission to review the document and make changes, additions, etc. She said they are trying to make the document more interesting and would be interested in having a good photo included. She'd like them to review her recommendations. They will add the wild life action plan maps. Abbe asked what her time frame was for completion. She said the next 6 months or so. She'd like to reach out to AGCOM to talk with them. Abbe suggested updating the mission statement for the Commission. She asked if they would like her to draft one. She asked if they had a Forest Management Plan. Abbe said they have a newly updated plan. Gilmore will have Hardy get that to her. She will be back in touch late January.
- Small Fish & Game Grants – Cousens suggested it be put on the agenda. The last meeting he noted that there were some small grants available. It is much more complicated than anticipated. He will be meeting in New Hampton with the wildlife biologist. There are about 15 projects the town could do that are eligible for a grant. He went through some of the items that they have grants available for.
- Town Forest trails sub-committee: Abbe has not been able to get a subcommittee. He has added something to the Town Report letter. He's tried different avenues to get volunteers. The Barnard lot needs a trail to it. Abbe thought a skid road up to there would help.
- Block Building: They will postpone demolition. They will revisit it in at the summer meetings. Abbe recommends the roof system be removed so it doesn't collapse. Gilmore was hoping to get the town to remove it.
- Easements-Jones, Gilmore – Cousens and Gilmore did a review of the Jones easement, but haven't yet done the Gilmore easement review. Abbe said he would go with Gilmore to do the walk. Gilmore wants to walk the line between the Hardy easement and his.
- Repaired Road – discussed earlier. This was for Weir Road which was not part of the contract with HFLC.
- Snowmobile Trail discussion. They lost one trail and they have redirected it to another trail.
- NHTOA – Gilmore asked if they wanted to make a donation to their annual fund. He suggested that they make a \$100 donation to that fund. Abbe said they have done that in the past. A **motion** to donate \$100 was made by Cousens, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next Meeting: January 16, 2018 at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary