

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes - Final
Tuesday, April 17, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

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

Also present: Rose Fife, Recording Secretary, Ed Cherian Jr. Ex-Officio Member, Alan Hardy Planning and Community Development Director

Guest: Ray Mercier (OLLI)

Regular Business

- Open by Chair at 7:04 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the minutes of prior meeting minutes of March 20, 2018. A **motion** to approve the Minutes was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – Gilmore noted that they have an outstanding debt which will come from the Forest account. When the work is completed in the Town Forest from the logging job, they will pay that bill. They are talking with the forester about starting another cut in the Town Forest. All monies were spent on the last logging job to repair the road damage. They had over \$25,000 and they renovated all around the cellar hole at the Weir Farm. They also put a new road in to get in there. Abbe noted that the road was torn up by the skidder and they had to repair it. Gilmore noted that was a very costly repair. Gilmore explained to Cherian that they have 3 funds; the town forest account; the conservation committee account and a conservation committee capital account. All of the conversion money comes when property is taken out of current use and a penalty is paid. Those monies goes into the conservation fund capital account. Cherian asked what account was for. Gilmore said it was used to purchase more easements. Hardy said all of the Knowlton Road lots will be coming out of current use and the penalty is 10%. Cherian asked if they were looking at expanding the town forest. Gilmore said there is a large piece of property that the town purchased across from Marshall's Fire Arms and the Commission paid most of the purchase price and they want to get an assessment on it. They will go before the Select Board to ask to fold that property into the Town Forest. Gilmore said there is timber on that property also.

Old Business:

- Town Forest Update – Jeff Abbe, the Town Forest Coordinator gave an update. He had Ray Mercier come in tonight as he's done a substantial amount of updates on their brochure. They have come up with something a lot simpler that fits in the mail box that is out in the Town Forest. There are some more changes to be made on the brochure. Abbe asked the Commission if target practicing is prohibited out there. It was recommended that the picnic table be moved to make it less enticing for the folks that target practice out there. Hardy suggested a sign that says "Be aware that there may be people target practicing in the Town Forest". Abbe doesn't want to limit hunting. Cherian noted that people know when hunting season is. Gilmore noted that there are 40 bales of hay out in the Forest that they will be using for mulch. Is there a more appropriate place for target shooting? Hardy stated that it's a liability issue. Abbe said they cleaned up all their brass after they were done shooting. Abbe said Fisher's pit and Stirrup Iron Road were also popular places to target practice. Neither place are now allowed to be used.

Mercier has written a lot of the history for the Weir family. He said he's teaching a class for OLLI on 5/14 and they are hiking throughout town. Abbe likes the brochure he submitted. He'd like it to show the Barnard lot and the Webster town line also. Mercier said this could be added to the website. Cherian asked if the maps

were by the Conservation Commission. Abbe said yes. He feels they need a new trail map for the Forest. Hardy asked if they want to build a new map. Abbe said yes. Hardy said he would get Katie Phelps to work with Abbe. Hardy said Concord supplied them with some mapping files. Trailfinders.com will have their information soon. Abbe wants the brochure to be cleaned up more. Cherian suggested that The Granite Project may have some information regarding the mapping. Hardy concurred. Abbe may go forward with that fairly soon. Mercier is willing to help out. Cherian said it might be a nice lecture or talk night for Boscawen. Mercier said he had volunteered to do that and spoke with Elaine Clow. He'd like someone from the Conservation Commission to explain about the habitat, etc. Cherian suggested the Forester Charlie Niebling could be there also. Mercier walked the land with Abbe and Niebling.

Discussion regarding target practicing continued. Gilmore thought the Commission should think about it a little more and discuss it at their next meeting. For now they can tell people not to or possibly provide a designated area. Hardy said they have a Fish and Game contact they could bring in and ask them how to manage it. Gilmore asked that someone from Fish and Game be invited to next month's meeting. Abbe will reach out to them.

Small Fish & Game Grants – Abbe has the applications. Hardy said Cousens was working on that.

A letter was received from NHTOA asking the Commission to renew their membership. He'd like to do so. Hardy asked if they would like the money to come out of operating account. Gilmore said correct. The membership fee is \$70.00. Gilmore also noted that NHTOA is having an annual meeting on May 19, 2018. Cherian thought those meetings were informative. A group of loggers, vendors, land owners and conservation people go to them.

A letter was received from the Town of Boscawen notify the Commission that Selectman Cherian is their new designee.

A **motion** to accept the financial reports as presented was made by Gilmore, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous.

A **motion** to continue the membership to NHTOA was made by Abbe, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

A notice was received from the Planning Board. The Town Forest is an abutter to a subdivision for a lot line adjustment. Hardy explained that because there are wetlands on the site the Conservation Commission had to be notified. It was because the Engineer on the job identified the edge of the high dump at the condominiums that are being built. It was going off of lot 5 onto lot 3. They made lot 5 larger so they needed to make a lot line adjustment. Gilmore said that the Commission had no issue with that.

The Department of Environmental Services sent a notice. White Logging Development is crossing a wetland to do a logging job. Hardy explained that the property is next to Ross Express. Stone has been put down as a condition of the State driveway permit. That lot is deep and wraps around the school. Hardy said this was just a notification. No action necessary.

Water Authority: Gilmore asked if they heard back from the Water Precinct. Hardy will draft another letter. Hardy said they made a formal offer of \$20,000. Gilmore explained the situation to Cherian. This was regarding Walker Pond Property.

New Business:

- Small Fish and Game grants: Abbe reported on it. Gilmore asked if Abbe would get together with Cousens to complete the application. It's for a Habitat Improvement Program in the amount of \$2,000. Gilmore said it

would help pay for the invasive. Abbe priced seed and the conservation mix grass seed price increased from \$89 to \$138 a bag. The price of winter rye went down. The total price went from \$971 to \$1,320.00. This grant would help pay for the seed. Discussion regarding adding picnic tables. Gilmore felt that places to sit on a trail was desirable. Discussion regarding getting someone in to build additional trails.

- New Easements: Robby Morrill who owns roughly 100 acre piece on the corner of Long Street and Water Street would like to consider getting an easement in the future. Gilmore felt the cost would be way more than they could afford. Gilmore said Morrill was supposed to bring him a land survey. LaPierre asked if he wanted an easement or to sell the development rights. Gilmore said he wants an easement. Hardy explained the difference between an easement and selling development rights. Gilmore will reach out to Morrill again. Hardy suggested that perhaps, depending on the program, the town may not want to use their own appraiser. Five Rivers is also an option.
- Report of Saving Special Places – Gilmore went to agricultural sessions. He discussed some of the information. Abbe said it was excellent. He took 3 seminars – wildlife habitat and trail building, etc. Gilmore said there was a legal session on how a person can acquire property just by using it for 20 years.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm was made by Abbe, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: May 15, 2018 at 7pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife, Secretary*