

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

July 19, 2022
Draft Minutes

Present: Alan Hardy, Chair, Aurel Mihai, Betsey McNaughten, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan, Norm LaPierre

Absent: Jeff Abbe, Henry Carrier

Staff Present: Kearsten O'Brien, Deputy Planning and Community Development Director, and Rose Fife, Recording Secretary

- Open by Chair at 7:05 pm.
- Roll call done by Rose Fife
- Accountant's Report – Hardy asked if the Commission had any questions on the reports given. There has not been any land use tax coming in as of late. O'Brien will with Katie Phelps to see if they will be getting anything in from Timber Tax. A **motion** to approve the Accountant's Reports as presented was made by Mihai, seconded by Kaplan and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Review Minutes 06.21.22 – Amendments need to be made as follows: Line 22 LSIP should be LCIP, Line 24 Betsey Millard should be Betsy, Line 35 Flewy should be Fleury, Line 111 council should be counsel, Line 116 'town selectmen' should be 'town meeting', Line 12 has Betsey McNaughten as a guest, but should be listed as an alternate, and Line 99 should read 'Mabel' Niebling. A **motion** to the Minutes as amended was made by Kaplan, seconded by Mihai, and approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business

- Town Forest Discussion Items – Hardy explained to the Commission that there is a group going into the Town Forest as a field trip from Boscawen's summer park program this Friday. The person doing the walking tour let them know there is a fairly large hornets' nest next to the house foundation on Weir Farm. His thoughts are that it's a natural environment, but it is a risk. If a child or adult is reactive to a sting, time is of the essence. Mihai has seen other places flag around something like this or tape around it. Kaplan asked if there was a way around it. He agrees that they shouldn't disturb it and at least if it is posted, maybe 25 feet, it would probably be enough. Hardy explained the hornets' nest is adjacent to the path. He may go up tomorrow and take pictures. O'Brien has been parking with the park and recreation program to do more local trips and this is their first trip up there. Bill Lambert saw it and brought it to her attention. McNaughten asked if the concern was liability. Hardy's concern is children getting stung. O'Brien explained that there will be about 25 children. Permission slips was suggested for the parents to sign, which would hold the town harmless. Hardy asked what they should do with the child who is carrying the epi-pen. Should they notify the parents? Kaplan thought notifying them makes good sense. Hardy had an email conversation with Abbe about it and Abbe considers it a part of the natural environment. Mihai suggested that for this Friday can they just avoid that spot. Cousens suggested police tape around the hornets' nest area. Hardy thought they should notify the parent and reroute the group. Mihai thought they should keep them far enough away but teach them that this is part of nature and it is summer and this is what it looks like but keep them away. O'Brien is taking over Parks and Recs for Penny next year and asked if the one of the Commissioners would be interested in taking the kids out for a walk there next year. Several Commissioners would be interested. Cousens suggested Ray Mercier who gives tours of the town forest. He does both

Concord and Boscawen's town forests. Hardy asked Cousens to get his contact information. Cousens also noted that Mr. Mercier did the tour the day after Old Home Day.

- Walker Pond Discussion Items – the dam. They schedule a day to go out there and visit the dam. Trying to go in from the Webster side is a challenge. DPW - Hollins went with them. They were unable to take photographs as there was quite a bit of rain. They saw the dam. He spoke with counsel regarding the need for an easement over that land. They will continue to work on that. McNaughten asked if they owned the land on both sides. Hardy answered no. The dam, in part, is in Webster. They received permission to own property in another town at town meeting, which is the part of the dam that is in Webster, but the land it sits in in Webster is owned by another party. Kaplan asked who owns on the Webster side. Easler has that information. Hardy will send it to Kaplan. McNaughten walked in from the Boscawen side. She ended up by a cabin about a mile in and thought it was land the town owned. Mihai said it is owned by Egounis. Hardy said there is a fair amount of activity on the land that the Commission now owns. He asked if they want to protect that right of access. O'Brien asked if Webster allowed building on a Class VI road as this could be a concern if they obtained an easement. Kaplan asked if it was just a matter of approaching the land owner to be allowed access. Hardy said they would continue to work on that with approaching the property owners as part of the solution. O'Brien will check to see if Webster allows waivers on a Class VI road. She will report back. Hardy said they have not purchased the dam yet. Kaplan asked McNaughten to send him her link to the map she submitted of Walker Pond. McNaughten would be happy to share it.

Kaplan did the first round of blazing with Charlie Niebling and there were further ones scheduled. Mihai explained the area that they had done. They ran out of paint so they need to finish it this fall.

- UMLAC – Hardy asked if UMLAC has gone through a name change. O'Brien reported that when they pay their membership it goes to the Water Shed. Hardy was discussing the open membership to UMLAC. Kaplan will be able to make the majority of meetings. He won't be able to be at the September meeting, but will possibly be at the rest of the year's meetings. Hardy noted that the Commission has an allowance for 2 people. He asked if anyone else has an interest in joining? Kaplan explained the meetings were held the 2nd Monday of each month. Hardy noted that since Gilmore retired no one has filled his slot. There have been no volunteers other than Kaplan. A **motion** to have Kaplan recommended to the selectmen to be appointed to UMLAC was made by LaPierre, seconded by Mihai and passed by a unanimous vote.

- NHDOT Roadway Reconstruction 04.12.22 – O'Brien said this is for information purposes only. Project #41578. Hardy read the letter. He explained that it is area of the lights on King Street. McNaughten asked if they were going to put a circle there. Hardy believes this is the King Street project. The town will ask, when they are done, for all the information on it. They will give the town a PDF of all the information that they have. Cousens asked if they will be widening the road. Hardy answered that DOT believe they have the ability to put in a turning lane. Kaplan asked what the Commission's interest in this project would be. Mihai thought the last time they discussed this they brought up walking lanes, bike lanes, etc. O'Brien explained that the town was looking at a Municipal Transportation tax, which would go before town meeting for a vote. It would add \$5.00 to each registration. When King Street get developed there needs to be extra funds for maintaining the area. They also talked about underground utilities. The Municipal Transportation tax would help cover that cost. They are also looking at grants. O'Brien will send the letters out to everyone. She will also send over the RSA regarding the new tax. McNaughten asked if that tax would be there forever. O'Brien explained it could be removed at town meeting later on.

O'Brien explained that the town has a lot of rental properties so this tax won't hit just town tax payers.

- Meeting Times – O'Brien gave a count of who wanted to keep it at 7 pm and who wanted the meeting moved to 6:30. It is a split vote on the times. Hardy noted that Planning moved their time to 6:30 pm first. O'Brien reported that the Zoning board hasn't met yet this year. AGCOM moved their meeting to 6:30 pm. EDC is at 5:30 pm and Energy is at 5:30 pm and those are both lacking membership. Trustees are at 5 pm. Old home days are at 6 pm and Select Board is at 6 pm. O'Brien thought they could flex their time. McNaughten thought it made sense to be consistent. O'Brien suggested they do a 6:30 pm test run for September.

New Business

- NHDES letters 83/45 & 47/9 & 10. O'Brien stated those letters were informative. Hardy reported they have a narrow input area with these.
- Bench Sponsorship-O'Brien discussed. O'Brien gave a quick overview about doing a bench in honor of Gilmore. The concern was how to fund it. LaPierre asked how much it would be. O'Brien said the cost came to \$1,650. Kaplan asked where it would be placed. O'Brien thought in front of the building. Kaplan thought it would be more honoring if it were placed on property that was conserved. Hardy agrees with getting it out in the Town Forest or Walker Pond area.

Hardy reported that there is a group called the Penacook Academy Review Committee who has input if the town were to do anything to the school that holds the town office. They will be meeting and talking more about the proposal about what would be happening to this school.

O'Brien reported that the Select Board would like department heads do zero based budgeting this year. Conservation Commission has a budget, so any membership dues or training expenses that they could think of Kellee Easler would like to know about. That would be very helpful to her.

Master Plan is 20 years old as of 2.12.02. As O'Brien read it, it looks as though the short term needs weren't accomplished. The long term needs were partially accomplished. The Master Plan is on the website under Planning Board. Hardy is working with John Keagan regarding this. Hardy asked if the working document for Conservation Commission is in a file format. O'Brien doesn't know how much of this she would have to look through. Hardy asked what Easler's goal is. O'Brien explained that Easler wants each committee to look at their section and make changes to be brought forward to the Planning Board. They could put out what their goals are for the next 10 or 20 years. Mihai wanted to know if they had a grand vision for the Town Forest or Walker Pond. Kaplan thought they should have Vision Meetings. McNaughten agreed. O'Brien will send out the documents and have the discussion in September.

Parks & Recs committee is doing a Police vs Fire game. Grappone said 2022 target commitments included land conservation. Does the Commission have any idea for anything they would like to ask for? O'Brien could research what type of things Grappone would be interested in donating to. Tina Larochelle said she would like a bench honoring her husband. That would be a great request. Merrimack County has a grant writer that they can utilize. Merrimack County does not have a Pilot program with them. They are looking into that.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm was made by Kaplan, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

McNaughten will not be here in August.

- Non-Public: none.

- Next Meeting:
August 16, 2022

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*