

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

August 16, 2022
Minutes

Present: Alan Hardy, Chair, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan, Norm LaPierre, Matt Burdick, Jeff Abbe

Absent: Henry Carrier, Aurel Mihai, Betsey McNaughten

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

Regular Business:

- Open by Chair 6:59 pm
- Roll call by Recording Secretary
- Accountant's Report – A **motion** to approve the accountant's report, as presented, was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote. Cousens was appointed as a voting member.
- Review Minutes of 07.19.22 – Line 26 'Minuets' should be 'Minutes'. A **motion** to approve the Minutes, as amended, was made by Abbe, seconded by Kaplan and passed by a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

• Town Forest Discussion Items

• Boscawen Village Town Forest Merger – There are 5 different lots. Abbe asked if it totaled up to the right amount. O'Brien said over 300 acres. She feels it would be easier if the Commission merged the lots together. Hardy thought merging the properties to one single lot would be best as then it could not be unmerged. Abbe reported that they did the same thing at the Weir Town Forest. He asked if it would include the extra town lots. O'Brien answered that it would. Hardy asked if Easler thought they would update the Select Board prior to the Planning Board. O'Brien will put that item on this week's agenda. A **motion** to merge the Boscawen Village Town Forest lots, including town lots beyond the O'Day property, was made by Abbe, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote. Hardy reported that the merger happens at Planning Board meeting. It will be a straight forward merger. O'Brien asked if it should go on the Select Board agenda this week. Hardy answered yes.

• Walker Pond Discussion Items

• Emergency Declaration Lane – The emergency lane only goes to the parking lot. In order to use the emergency declaration to maintain, they need to have a purpose, which would be to have good safe access to the boat launch. They would want it extended to the boat launch. People that use the area were saying that the stone put in the boat launch parking lot area has settled and there are holes holding water. They cannot do anything there until the emergency lane is extended. Abbe asked if they should extend it to Paul Fisher's barn. Abbe thought it would take 8-10 loads of gravel to fix what they have now. Kaplan asked if that were to make the lane wider. Hardy answered that was to be able to maintain a Class VI road. The statute was built to allow the odd situation, where there is a need to maintain a Class VI road that you don't want to bring up to a Class V roadway. Abbe asked if it would have to be built to town specs. Hardy answered yes. LaPierre said they should keep it simple. Kaplan asked if the Emergency Lane Declaration had any relation to doing anything physical; do they need to do anything to keep people parking there. Abbe noted that the boat launch to the pump house is in rough shape. Discussion regarding the boat launch and the difficulty using it took place. Hardy explained that the issue is parking once a boat is unloaded. Matt Burdick asked if the emergency lane and maintenance would be done by Dean Hollins of Public Works. Wouldn't they need some sort of turn around there? Hardy noted that Dean Hollins/DPW has to look at it and decide. Abbe asked if he would have to plow to that location. Hardy said if they open it up for winter parking that would get very difficult. Cousens asked what the purpose was to extend the

emergency lane. Hardy explained to allow the town to maintain it. That is the sole purpose. Discussion regarding Emergency vehicle access ensued. It would be very difficult to get fire trucks in and out of there. Kaplan asked about the dwellings down there? Would they need to sign anything i.e. a release of liability? If they were doing this today, there would be a release of liability. Theoretically, anyone who lives down there, should sign a release of liability. LaPierre noted that someone plows up to the first camp. Hardy noted that maintenance at that point becomes the responsibility of the property owners. Kaplan thought it was a subject they should get the lawyers to make a decision on. Hardy explained that they do not design round-a-bouts any longer, just hammer heads per Planning Board regulations. A **motion** to make the extension was made by Cousens, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote. O'Brien asked if they wanted to bring that forward to Select Board. Hardy replied yes.

- Walker Pond Dam Acquisition – Hardy reported that they were not sure where the dam is. He discussed this with Attorney Raymond. They found no paperwork about the existence of the dam. Web Stout LLS is willing to go out and survey the dam so they can locate it. They found a reference in Kaplan's property deed to maintenance. O'Brien explained that per the deed, the Penacook Boscawen water district and its heirs have the right of way over Kaplan's property for maintenance of the dam. Hardy wanted permission to work the details out with Web Stout and the expense would come out of the Conservation Funds. A **motion** to allow Hardy to work with Web Stout was made by Kaplan, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote. Access to the dam was discussed. Hardy explained that once they can locate it, they will place it in the Boscawen land. Kaplan asked how they access it through Webster. Kaplan asked if there was anything the Commission needed to act on based on Bruce Johnson's email. Hardy thought the best approach would be to do a review on a regular basis and talk with Bruce Johnson. Kaplan asked if ownership cannot happen until ownership is resolved. Hardy explained that they need to know where it is first.

Abbe reported on the Town Forest. July 6th Abbe met with a representative of EJ Prescott. Chief Kenny and Dean Hollins and Joel Lorden were there as well. The Commission discussed the dry well. They can cap it. This is just static. Abbe will contact EJ Prescott to get a price. They are doing investigative digging. Hardy thought they should add a third item to the Select Board agenda. O'Brien noted they haven't finalized the CIP and they could plan for it. The CIP funds could go into DPW's budget vs. Conservation. It could also go in Planning's budget as well. Hardy asked if O'Brien had time Thursday night to update the Board on the dry hydrant topic. O'Brien noted that they could budget in the CIP and bring it forward to Planning or Dean Hollins DPW budget and put a cap of say \$15,000. Hardy noted it could also go in Fire's budget as well. Abbe reported that according to Chief Kenney it is still operable. Abbe noted that the class on invasive plants is this Friday morning. They will be going out to the Weir Town Forest after. Anyone on the Commission is invited to attend at no charge. Gate will be open with 30 people there and there may be some mobility impaired people so they may use a vehicle to transport them. O'Brien asked for photographs to update social media. Kaplan asked if they would put it on the Walker Pond FB page as well. O'Brien will take care of that.

Abbe reported that kids were out from the Recreation Program. They made it to the Balancing Rock and then one person got stung. All in all 16 out of 22 people got stung. Chief Kenney and his wife were there to help out. The ground wasps are very active this year. Abbe said there is a ground wasp nest 8 feet from the kiosk. O'Brien noted it would be doubtful the Recreation program will come back for a walk next year. O'Brien needs to get Chief Kenney a map of the Weir Town Forest. Abbe would like him to have a key as well. Hardy wanted to have Chief Kenney asked if he wants a key or a Knox Box to put the key in it. Hardy thought a Knox Box would be best. Abbe noted that he and Dean Hollins have a key.

Old Home Day there is a Boscawen Village Town Forest tour at 10 am. Everyone is welcome to help out. Abbe proposes that they split into 2 groups. They will do a loop hike or a tree ID hike. From 10 to noon on Sunday August 28th. O'Brien will be at Old Home Day with a booth to have people sign up for committees and she asked for maps that she could have available for people to take.

New Business:

- UMLAC – Hardy reported Kaplan's paperwork will be going onto the Select Board then onto the group.

• Master Plan update – O’Brien sent out paperwork to the Commission. It was reported that Easler went through it to see what she could do to help. She changed some of the gravel pits, but she needs information from the Commission. The Master Plan was done in 2018. They should add items such as Walker Pond, the New Town Forest, the goals of the Commission, the Morrill easement, the new gravel pits, etc. Kaplan reminded the Commission that they discussed using the September meeting to do some brain storming. It was noted that Easler would like it back by September, but it can wait until next year if needed. Abbe asked if they were discussing Chapter 8. O’Brien said it was. The NRI is an appendix to Chapter 8. O’Brien discussed how the NRI and the Master Plan do not line up. She will send out the ‘red line’ version for the Commission to discuss. Hardy asked her to send it to them. Abbe noted that Chapter 8 is lacking on Recreation Trails. O’Brien will send the link to the 2002, and send out the version she has been working on. Hardy felt that if the comments go back to O’Brien it would be easier. Central NH Planning Commission should help them next year if they receive a grant. Kaplan asked how they decide what 3 or 4 or 5 things they want to make stand out after O’Brien receives their comments. Pictures also need to be updated. She reported that AGCom updated their use tables. O’Brien will send it to Hardy. Abbe asked for the list of items O’Brien just discussed. O’Brien discussed what was in the report. She also asked if they would be interested in doing a winter fishing derby and the proceeds would go back to whatever Walker Pond needed.

Kaplan asked about Grappone’s grant that they discussed last meeting. O’Brien hasn’t reached back out to them as of yet.

Cousens’ wanted to thank Abbe for all he has done to make Old Home Day successful. The Town Forest tour will be a good. Cousens also wanted to wish Kara Gallagher happiness and health for the birth of her child.

Abbe won’t be her for the next meeting as he will be in Spokane Washington. O’Brien will not be here in October. September meeting will be at 6:30 pm.

Non-Public:

None.

- Next Meeting:
- September 20, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

A **motion** to adjourn at 8:14 pm was made by Cousens, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*