

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
March 21, 2023
Final Minutes

Present: Alan Hardy, Chair, Aurel Mihai, Matthew Burdick, Jeff Abbe, and Mark Kaplan

Alternate Members Present: Henry Carrier, Lyman Cousens, Betsey McNaughten

Absent: Norman LaPierre, Rose Fife- Recording Secretary

Staff Present: Kearsten O'Brien, Planning and Community Development Deputy Director, Kara Gallagher, Planning and Community Development Assistant, Dean Hollins – Director of Public Works, and Charlie Niebling, Town Forester

Guests: John Keegan- Agricultural Commission Chair, Ralph Odell- Agricultural Commission Member, and Gary Tillman- Agricultural Commission Member

- Open by Chair at 6:30 pm
- Roll call by Kara Gallagher PCD Assistant

Consent Agenda:

- Accountant's Report
- 2/21/23 Draft Minutes

A **motion** to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mihai, seconded by Kaplan, and passed by a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Hardy said Town Forester Niebling did research on the renewal of membership for NHTOA and the membership dues are \$100.

Mihai motions to renew the membership for NHTOA for the \$100. Seconded by Kaplan. All in favor. None opposed.

Kaplan said Michele Trembly sent the water quality of Walker Pond and it was a fairly positive report. He suggested that someone from the group that monitors Walker Pond should come and speak to the Commission. Hardy said it makes sense for them to come to the Commission. Kaplan will reach out and invite her to one of the meetings.

Mihai said there was a fair amount of damage since the last storm and he cleaned up the trails in the Weir Town Forest. Abbe said there were branches and twigs down in the Boscawen Village Town Forest. Abbe went to a training this past weekend about pollinators and would suggest taking inventory of what is in the five acre field and then have a kiosk to educate people. He also suggested a bee hotel and planting some seedlings on the piece as well. Hardy said the letter to Parnassus did go out in the mail, and we have not heard back yet. Niebling said he spoke with Eric Munro and they will be meeting in late spring, early summer to mark the two stands at the end of the Barnard lot contingent on the Comb Crop. Kaplan spoke with Betsey Millard about the cemetery supposedly in the gravel pit

located at Map 94 Lot 23 and she said the cemetery was on Cathole Road. Hardy and Niebling said that is on the other side of Town and if that is the case then the cemetery would not be in the gravel pit.

Hardy updated the Commission that the Planning Board will be walking some of the Class VI Roads to make a better decision if building should be allowed on Class VI Roads. This would not be for brand new houses but simply to allow current home owners to add a shed on to their property or an addition. Niebling said if you open some of the Class VI roads you would open a lot of the undeveloped properties in Town. The walk will be May 6th at 8am. Hardy asked if Mr. Stout has reached out with a survey for Walker Pond. Abbe said he has not heard back yet. Hardy said he had a discussion with Town Counsel and option one would be to locate the dam and have the deed show that. The other approach would be that we could put any interest the precinct has with the dam in the deed so that way it could be completed without the survey and it could be completed after. McNaughten would suggest going with the second option. O'Brien said that Stout did get back the plans for the Boscawen Village Town Forest.

Kaplan motioned to go with the general description of the land for the dam. Seconded by Mihai. All in favor. None opposed.

Hardy brought up the NH State Park Grant for Public Outdoor Recreation projects, currently the Commission has no projects that would qualify but in the future they now know this grant could be an option. Niebling said if the Merrimack County Boat Launch project was further along it would be a good project to go for the grant.

McNaughten said that NHACC is doing a workshop on Thursday morning about funding. She will come back and give a report to the Commission.

Mihai spoke about the latest draft of the first half of the Introduction chapter in the Master Plan. He is hoping this will be more of a living document and hopefully will not be another twenty years before it is reviewed. Kaplan said it reads well and it clear.

New Business:

John Keegan Chair of the Boscawen Agricultural Commission presented the idea of an invasive species workshop and study group. McNaughten had a conversation with Jill and she is willing to come and make a presentation on invasives. Chair Hardy said they could have the presentation at the Municipal Office and open it up to the Towns' Boards and Committees as well as residents that may be interested. Keegan said that Town Forest and Rail Trail have invasive species among them. Kaplan suggested having a demonstration on how to take care of invasives such as bittersweet and Japanese Knot weed. DPW Director Hollins said there are many invasive species between the Boscawen Park and the Rail Trail and the Town owns the property. Chair Hardy asked how long DPW Director Hollins has been dealing with invasive species. DPW Director Hollins said for about five years. The sections of roads they have taken care of have been sprayed and they use Prescott Towle. He said it can be an issue with animals and pets when using the chemicals. Town Forester Niebling said the challenge with invasives is that you have to go back over and over. He suggested focusing on ecologically functioning areas, for example the Silver Maple Forest at the Merrimack County boat launch or Betsey Millard's Field of Autumn Olive. McNaughten will speak to Jill about when a presentation will work for her and she will get back to Keegan and the Committee.

Other Business:

A **motion** to adjourn made by Kaplan, seconded by Mihai, and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: March 21st, 2023 @ 6:30 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kearsten O'Brien, Recording Secretary*