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CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 16, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

8 Members Present: Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norm LaPierre, and Mark Kaplan,
9 Lorrie Carey

10 Also present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director, Alan Hardy, Town Administrator
11 and Rose Fife, Recording Secretary

12 Absent: none

13 Guest: Bruce Crawford

14
15 **Regular Business:**

16 Open By Chair at 7:00 pm

17 Roll Call by Chair

18 Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of the June meeting – A **motion** to accept the Minutes was made by
19 LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

20
21 Accountants Report – Balance Sheet shows \$193,668.57. Profit and Loss shows a net income \$19,055.49. The
22 Forest Fund has \$34,545.57. The regular budget has no money in it as they forwent their budget money and are
23 paying out of their own conservation monies. Ms. Carey asked if there was an amount of money that was kept in
24 reserve or do they spend things down as they come in. Gilmore said they have no policy and no reserve. Their
25 expenses are well defined. They pay for maintenance and mowing of the Town Forest. Gilmore further explained
26 their funds, income and expenses. Hardy explained that their funds are in a ‘sweep account’. Their net interest
27 is higher this way than what they would have if they weren’t grouped in this manner.

28
29 Town Forest Update – Abbe reported. He hasn’t purchased the bag of conservation mix yet. He hopes to get to
30 that this week. He is hopeful to have something for Old Home Day. He hopes that on Sunday 8.25.19 from 10
31 am to noon they will have a tour. Ray Mercier, OLLI representative, committed to do the history tour and Charlie
32 Niebling, Town Forester, committed to do an active forest tour. He hasn’t heard back from the contacts he has
33 with the Weir family. Cousens ordered a road sign that had the information for Old Home Day. Abbe explained
34 that Tuesday night 8.20.19 Elektrisola is hosting a Wilderness Encounters Group and the commission will have
35 a table and hand out trail maps. Anyone interested can speak with the Commission and they will encourage folks
36 to come on the walk on Sunday. Gilmore asked if they should have their meeting at Elektrisola. Cousens has
37 been in contact with Elektrisola but he hasn’t heard back from them yet. He will stop in to see them tomorrow.
38 Ms. Carey suggested they have additional handouts to give out to the parents at park and recreation’s program
39 when they pick up their children. The last week of summer camp is the week before Old Home Day and they
40 could give them out to the parents at the end of camp season. Ms. Carey will contact the Chairman of the Parks
41 and Recreation committee and see if they will pass out Old Home Day schedules and this information. Kaplan
42 asked if there would be something in the News Vine. Cousens writes the article for the News Vine. He said the
43 walk is included in the article. There will be something in the Merrimack Valley Voice which comes out the first
44 of the month. Abbe asked if there was a theme for Old Home Day. Cousens explained the theme was about
45 Veterans. Abbe reported before the event on Sunday he could ask John Fife to mow the Town Forest one more
46 time.

47
48 Creaser Property presentation was made to the Selectmen and the commission requested that the selectmen
49 consider having the property ownership revert to the Conservation Commission and they agreed to that.
50 Permission was requested the survey be done, which was one of the items recommended in the management

51 report done by Niebling. The selectmen agreed to that. A **motion** to allocate money from the forest account to
52 pay for the survey was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote. After that is done
53 they may ask Niebling to do a better demarcation. Carey noted that the selectmen were impressed by the report
54 given. Kaplan asked if they were stewards of that land. Gilmore said yes. They want to put an article into the
55 town meeting report to turn the Creaser property into a town forest. If they want to put it into conservation there
56 are other issues they need to deal with. If they are the owners of the property they cannot own the easement also.
57 Other organizations charge a fee. Gilmore reported that if it is a town forest they cannot sell it. But the town, at
58 a town meeting, can revert it back from a town forest and dispose of the property. Ms. Carey asked if someone
59 could ask to amend a warrant article that was made to place a property into a town forest. Hardy said it could
60 happen. Ms. Carey stated that was the risk. Gilmore wanted them to concentrate on having it become a Town
61 Forest this year. Hardy reported that the Town Counsel explained that the method you use to create a town forest
62 does protect the property if done properly. Gilmore explained that if the town forest is protected, then they don't
63 need a conservation easement on it and that will take care of the problem. LaPierre asked about the \$350,000 that
64 came out of their account to buy the Creaser land. Gilmore explained that the selectmen have agreed that the
65 ownership/control of the property is with the conservation commission.

66
67 Role of the Ex-Officio – Gilmore stated that the ex-officio member is a full member of the Board with full voting
68 rights. Gilmore is not pleased with that as it gives the select board too much control. But they are working
69 together. They will research that more before they do their bylaws. They can ask the Selectmen to appoint
70 someone as an advisor not a voting member. Ms. Carey explained that they would have to do that for all the
71 committees to keep things balanced. Abbe felt that it has been to their advantage to have the selectmen's
72 representation. The participation of the town select board members with them is essential. They want the
73 participation and involvement, the question is the voting rights. Ms. Carey explained that all ex-officio members
74 vote on all committees unless they are an alternate ex-officio member. Hardy explained that the Planning Board
75 has an ex-officio member voting by State Statute. The select board appoints 6 with the ex-officio being the 7th.

76 77 Old Business:

78 Natural Resource Update – Gilmore explained that because the subcommittee has 3 members, Minutes will need
79 to be submitted to the commission. They need to note what members were present, what motions were made,
80 what date and time they met, etc. A report to this Board from any subcommittee is necessary. Kaplan asked if
81 that was in writing. Gilmore said correct. Kaplan misunderstood. Carey said RSA 91.a section 91.a.2, section
82 d, circulation of draft documents when finalized are only intended to report decisions made to affect the
83 application, etc. She doesn't believe they needed minutes at all but they did them to be on the conservative side.
84 No decisions were made, etc. Cousens asked why Ms. Carey had an issue with the commission knowing what
85 the subcommittee did. Carey said she had no issue with that. Kaplan will be happy to do the Minutes going
86 forward. Gilmore said there was no action needed on the Minutes they submitted, but the commission wants a
87 report of what went on when they met. Kaplan went over the maps they looked at when they met. He made
88 copies of the maps of the view sheds. There are 6 or 7 views marked on the 2018 Master Plan. Scenic views will
89 be a priority. Gilmore asked if they could have copies emailed to the commission. Kaplan will hand them out.
90 Gilmore will get back to it at the next meeting or send an email to Kaplan, Abbe and Carey. Send all emails to
91 Kaplan with any comments/concerns. They are going to respond to Mr. Tardiff and speak with Niebling about
92 the maps. Gilmore suggested he work with Kellee instead of Niebling as Niebling is a subcontractor and Kellee
93 is a town employee who is compensated accordingly.

94
95 Review & Acceptance NRI Sub-Committee DM 06.27.19 – no action necessary or taken.

96
97 Contract CNHRPC – Easler gave Gilmore a contract that meets the commission's criteria of \$4,000 for expense.
98 The commission needs to go over it and sign it. Compensation will be \$4,000. Payable in 2 payments. Kaplan
99 wanted a copy. Gilmore asked Easler to give the commission copies of that. A **motion** to authorize the chairman
100 to sign the contract after they find it acceptable was made by Cousens, seconded by Carey and passed by a

101 unanimous vote. Kaplan said there may be a need for more time from the Commission i.e. maybe an added hour
102 onto their meeting time. Cousens asked if they were working with Mr. Tardiff or one of the Planners. Kaplan
103 said both.

104
105 August Site Walk Update Map 81, Lot 24 5 pm 08.20.19 – they will need to reschedule to September meeting at
106 5 pm. – gravel pit.

107
108
109 New Business:

110 Permits and Reviews – none.

111 Recommendations of Appointment

112 Jeff Abbe September 2019/2022 – A **motion** to recommend Abbe for another 3 year term was made by
113 Cousens, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

114
115 Class VI Roads – Hardy reported on it. The issue they are running into is buildable land is a commodity right
116 now. There is interest for some lots that are reasonably priced but are on a Class VI road. There is a 4 acre lot
117 on the town line of Stirrup Iron Road. That lot is on the Class VI road and not buildable. The town has decided
118 to discontinue as those roads are no longer maintained or buildable. The Merrill Corner lot is 60% under water;
119 swamp land. The commission may be asked to look at it and clarify the concerns with that property. There are
120 2 lots, 4 acres and 7 acres and they are not buildable. If they ask someone on the commission to go out it is just
121 to bring back a description of what exists. Gilmore said that the commission has control over wetlands. They
122 need to sign off on a document to allow them to cross those roads. Hardy reported that the statute allows the
123 towns to make the decision whether or not they would allow building permits on Class VI road.

124
125 By-Laws Update Draft – Gilmore suggests it is postponed to the September 2019 meeting. They will review it
126 and Gilmore will pass them out to everyone. No action taken.

127 Public Hearing following month.

128
129 Committee went into Non-public session at 8:10 pm.

130
131 Commission came back into Public Session at 8:31 pm.

132
133 A **motion** to seal the non-public session Minutes was made by Cousens, seconded by Kaplan, and passed by a
134 unanimous vote.

135
136 Cousens was concerned with the date of next meeting as it is Elektrisola's night. Gilmore said they may have the
137 meeting before or after that. Cousens said the Elektrisola's meeting starts at 5 pm and should be over by 7 pm.

138
139 A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Kaplan, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

140
141 Next Meeting: August 20, 2019 at 7 pm

142
143 *Respectfully submitted,*

144 *Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*