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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Boscawen Municipal Complex**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 20, 2019 @ 7:00 PM**

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norm LaPierre, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan, Lorrie Carey and Henry Carrier, alternate member

Also present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director, and Rose Fife, Recording Secretary

Absent: none

Guest: Brendan Jackson

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Meeting opened at 7 pm.

**Regular Business:**

- Open by Chair – 7 pm
- Roll call – by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the minutes of prior meeting minutes – Gilmore wanted to include Niebling’s comments into this evening’s Minutes as an addendum to last month’s Minutes. Cousens was not listed as a member that was present at last month’s meeting. He was there. A **motion** to accept the Minutes with the addendum was made by Abbe, seconded by Kaplan and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant’s Report – Gilmore noted that their Conservation fund which was used for the purchase of property and easement has \$193,862.53. The balance in the Forest Fund account has \$32,466.00. He believes they have one check written against that amount for the work that they contracted from MRI. The mowing has been done for the town forest and that bill will be coming in soon. Question from Cousens regarding the \$22,000 amount on the Balance Sheet. He’d like to know what that represents and is it carried forward.
- Town Forest Update – Walk on 08.25.19 – Abbe spoke. The event at Elektrisola was attended by a few members this evening. The town forest tour is on Sunday. Kaplan was planning on having a table there. Kaplan thought he would be there from noon to either 2 or 3 pm. The Town gave the Commission easels, town maps, etc. Kaplan reported they would have brochures, maps, etc. Gilmore asked if they would be setting up a table for the walk. Abbe said they would have a table at the gate and a cooler of water out at the foundations. The Weir family will be there – 7 to 10 people with picnics. The mowing was done by John Fife today. Abbe said Niebling will be handing out maps and Easler offered to make the copies for him.

**Old Business:**

- Natural Resource Update – Kaplan reported. Nothing further has been done since the last meeting. The contract has been submitted from Central NH Regional Planning. Kaplan was wondering if they should ask people to vote on the aspects of natural resources of Boscawen that interest them. i.e. trail walking/hiking, wild life conservation, preservation of wetlands, etc. This will allow the commission to see what is more important to the citizens. This will allow community input. Kaplan suggested they put it up at Old Home Day. He will set it up

47 on Saturday and bring it out on Sunday. Carey suggested an on line survey also. Just as a side  
48 note there are a lot of bald eagle sightings in town.

- 49 • September Site Walk GMI Map 81, Lot 24 5pm 09.17.19 – This will be the night of their  
50 September meeting. Easler said it will be considered a public meeting. The public will not be  
51 allowed to speak but they are welcome to join in. Gilmore said they need Minutes for that  
52 meeting. The commission will need to review the water supply at the end of the driveway, etc.  
53 Were the wetlands is delineated is another question they need to review. Abbe asked if the  
54 town had a plan done up after their last site visit. Easler said she can get a copy of a plan that  
55 was done after their visit. She's not sure if the delineation was noted on that plan.

56  
57 Cousens asked when ZBA will be meeting to go through the gravel pit. Easler said it is the  
58 Planning Board. GMI is due in January and they will need to apply for their permit, which  
59 needs to be done every 5 years. It is recommended that the town's engineer (which is  
60 Underwood) go in and check. LaPierre said they used to always do site walks at all the gravel  
61 pits in town every time their license needed to be renewed. Cousens asked about reclamation.  
62 Is there a state provision for reclamation process? Easler stated that the pits need to provide a  
63 bond for reclamation. The pits in town all have a bond.

64  
65 Brendan Jackson, a visitor to the meeting lives on Fairbanks Drive. He moved to Boscawen  
66 in 2018. He's an avid sportsman, fisherman, etc. He runs a nonprofit for NH Fish and Game.  
67 He writes for NH Fish and Game. He's less than a year away from receiving a bachelor's  
68 degree in environmental science. He'd like to put in an application for an alternate member  
69 for the commission. Gilmore said they'd be happy to accept an application. They're not taking  
70 on any actual members, but are for an alternate member. Gilmore felt he would be an excellent  
71 asset to the commission. Kaplan noted Mr. Jackson would give the commission some diversity.  
72 He feels he would help with more public education.

73  
74 Abbe wanted it noted that the town forest was now on trailfinder.com. He'd also like to know  
75 if they should create a Facebook page. Easler said she would talk with Katie Phelps to set them  
76 up. Gilmore's not a fan of Facebook.

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78 A motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm was made by Kaplan, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous  
79 vote.

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81 **Next Meeting:**

- 82 • September 17, 2019 at 5pm Site Walk 267 Queen GMI
- 83 • September 17, 2019 at 7pm Regular Meeting Town Municipal Complex.

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86 *Respectfully submitted,*  
87 *Rose Fife, Recording secretary*

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91 **Addendum to the minutes of 07.16.19, Lines 48-65 Comments by Charles Niebling, Town**  
92 **Forester clarifying the discussion of the Creaser property under regular business.**

93  
94 Creaser Property presentation was made to the Selectmen and the commission requested that the  
95 selectmen consider having the management responsibility for the property revert to the  
96 Conservation Commission and they agreed to that. Permission was requested the survey be done,  
97 which was one of the items recommended in the management report done by Niebling. The  
98 selectmen agreed to that. A **motion** to allocate money from the town forest management fund to  
99 pay for the survey was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.  
100 After that is done, they may ask Niebling to blaze and paint boundary lines. Carey noted that the  
101 selectmen were impressed by the report given. Kaplan asked if they were stewards of that land.  
102 Gilmore said yes. They want to put an article into the 2020 town meeting warrant to designate  
103 the Creaser property as a town forest under RSA 31:110. If they want to take permanent  
104 protection of this land to the next level with a conservation easement there are other issues they  
105 need to deal with. As the Town of Boscawen owns these properties (the Town Forest and the  
106 Creaser Lot) the town cannot also hold the conservation easement on them. Other organizations  
107 that would be qualified to hold the easement often charge fees to cover the costs of perpetual  
108 monitoring of the easement terms. Gilmore reported that if it is designated as a town forest the  
109 town may not be able to sell it for development. But the citizens, at a future town meeting, can  
110 vote to remove the town forest designation and dispose of the property. Ms. Carey asked if  
111 someone could ask to amend a warrant article that was made to place a property into a town  
112 forest. Hardy said it could happen. Ms. Carey stated that was the risk. Gilmore wanted them to  
113 concentrate on having it become a Town Forest at next year's town meeting. Hardy reported that  
114 the Town Counsel explained that the method you use to create a town forest does protect the  
115 property if done properly. Gilmore explained that if the town forest is protected, then they don't  
116 need a conservation easement on it and that will take care of the problem. LaPierre asked about  
117 the \$350,000 that came out of their account to buy the Creaser land. Gilmore explained that the  
118 selectmen have agreed that the management oversight and responsibility of the property is with  
119 the conservation commission.  
120