

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes – Draft
Tuesday, August 21, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norm LaPierre, Lyman Cousens and Edward Cherian, Ex-Officio. Lyman Cousens missing.

Also present: Alan Hardy, Planning & Community Development Director, Rose Fife, Recording Secretary

Guest: Charlie Niebling, Town Forester and Henry Carrier and Mark Caplan

Regular Business

- Open by Chair 7:00 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of July 12, 2018. One correction to page 2 line 65 and 66. Change the spelling from Mr. Hotts to Hotz. A motion to approve the minutes with the correction noted was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – Town Forest account should have an additional \$3,400 which was received from a grant added in.
- Town Forest Update – Rock removal was discussed. Abbe has asked Niebling to discuss this issue with Dave Herrick of HFLC. Abbe noted that the purchased seed is now in the shed at the community garden. Unfortunately, the squirrels have eaten a quarter of a bag. Gilmore wants HFLC to go down with a skid steer and pick up the rocks on the surface. He wants to get it level enough to get the bush hog in there. Abbe said it needs to be 'ski slope' ready. He'd like them to utilize as light equipment as possible as the ground is saturated from the rain. Niebling spoke with Mr. Herrick and told him that pending the decision by the Commission tonight, he should be prepared to pick rocks with a skid steer and rock bucket right away. Niebling believes the ground may still be too saturated to operate and he is guessing that they may be able to get in there to work sometime next week. He will call Mr. Herrick tomorrow morning. Abbe wants the field split into quadrants and work the ground that way. Niebling said the fee would be close to, if not, \$800 a day for a skid steer with a rock truck and \$700 a day with tractor and dump trailer with an operator. Abbe asked if a small loader would be simpler. They want to move it to the center island and stay as light as possible. Niebling will instruct Herrick to use the lightest equipment array to do the job and to begin as soon as possible taking the ground conditions into consideration. Gilmore asked if the total expense would be \$2,500. Niebling will find out. A **motion** to authorize a maximum of \$2,500 for rock picking was made by Abbe, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

There will be an event at the Town Forest on Saturday: Gilmore will be there at 1:30 pm. Abbe believes he will have between 50 to 150 people. There will be approximately 10 to 12 descendants of the Weir family there. Abbe will encourage everyone that can walk to do so. He will have someone stationed at the landing as well as at other locations. The Weir family will need transportation. Niebling asked if they had something in mind for him to discuss. i.e. the forestry activity, past present and future. Cherian thought it would be a nice opportunity for Niebling to discuss the management plan, etc. Niebling has poster size blow ups of the Town Forest maps he can utilize and will blow up some visuals of last year and this year's timber sales. He can put together a 5-10 minute discussion. Abbe the walking people will start at the gate to the Colby loop, to the foundations, and then they hope they will go thru the new field through the nature field and back up. One big mile and a half loop. Returning to the foundation at 3 pm is their goal for a group discussion.

Hardy submitted a memo that was received from Charlie Niebling on 8.14.18 regarding the proposed timber sale for the winter of 2018-2019.

Niebling noted that at last month's meeting he indicated that he would submit his proposal for the timber sale for the winter. He'd like some discussion/consent to proceed. The last page of the memo lays out the time frame. He would like a decision this evening. Abbe feels it's well written. It is their hopes to close out the current contract prior to starting a new one. Niebling wants to know if they have a figure for the replacement of the well. Cherian noted that they do not have that number yet. Cherian believes, after discussions with PDW Dean Hollins, that the work has already been done. Gilmore wanted it noted that this new contract is separate from last year's and they will be closing out Herrick's contract. This is a new proposal, new quotes. Cherian asked Niebling what he thought the revenue numbers would be for this newly proposed area. Niebling said he wanted to correct his numbers on the memo he submitted. They will use the exact same landing. They will use the same skid road. There are no road building expenses, etc. He gave him a gross estimate with a net of 10% less on the bottom of page 2. Cherian asked if the \$33,150 noted was the total to the town or did they still need to pay the loggers. Niebling said that would be a total to the town. The oak may be lower in revenue.

A **motion** to authorize to have Niebling proceed in getting bids out to be returned to the town. Niebling wants them to go out in the middle of September and they can make a decision by early October. Abbe asked if they could put a clause in the contract about maintenance of the roadways. Niebling said he could do that. A **motion** to approve the Town Forest going forward as stated in the memo dated 8.24.18 from Charlie Niebling for cuts to the town forest was made by Abbe, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Gilmore asked about cable logging. Niebling said he is going to reach out to conventional loggers and cut to length crews. Cherian wondered if the chip market comes back if he would change his approach. Niebling said this is a good place to leave as much of the bio mas behind as possible. Niebling was contacted by Tim Fleury, the Merrimack County Forester, who notified him that the town's tree farm certification is up for recertification. He drafted the recertification form. He sent it to the Commission several months ago and hasn't received any response. He will resend it to the commission. He can't be the recertifying Forester on this recertification so Tim Fleury will sign off on it.

There are two Bills going before the Senate and Hardy noted that they have a letter going in support of the override. One is the metering bill and one is the chip bill. The Selectmen are sending a letter to senators to support the bill.

New Business

- New Easements – Gilmore talked with Mr. Hotz. He did indicate that there is a new set of guidelines coming out. He wanted to talk with Mr. Morrill but Gilmore had already done that.

He has heard nothing about the Walker Pond property. Hardy had two things of interest will be the selling price and the ability for the Precinct to be allowed to pump water out of Walker Pond. Gilmore said they have an official offer of \$40,000. Hardy noted that there is more property coming out of current use so they will be more funds for the commission. Gilmore doesn't know who will manage this project, the Forest Society or the Commission. Niebling explained the donations to the easement fund and how it works.

- Permits and Reviews - They have a permit that came in. He shared copies with the commissioners. Hardy said they need to be signed. The commission reviewed the permit. It's on High Street in Boscawen NH. Tom

Gilmore will sign 4 copies. A **motion** to authorize the Chair to sign for the expedited wetland permit was made by Cherian, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

Potential New Member – the Commission welcomed Mark Caplan. He moved from Webster to Boscawen at 121 Water Street in March. His interest is in land conservation. The commission explained to Mr. Caplan what they do and gave an overview of the Town Forest and the property across from Marshall's Firearms store. Mr. Caplan asked if there was an open slot on the committee. Gilmore said yes. He asked what his responsibilities would entail as being part of the commission. Gilmore explained. He explained that his work has him out of town a lot, but whenever he is in town he would be at a meeting. Cherian explained that the schedule for every Board meeting is scheduled a year in advance. Gilmore noted they communicate through email. They also do walks on weekends if they can work it that way.

Henry Carrier wanted Cherian to let the Selectmen know how important it is to put the property across from Marshall's firearms into the commission's hand.

Gilmore asked if Mark Chaplan would accept a nomination. He agreed he would. A **motion** to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Mark Chaplain become a member of the Conservation Commission was made by Gilmore, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm was made by Cherian, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: September 18, 2018 at 7 pm

Respectfully Submitted
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary