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CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 15, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norm LaPierre, Lyman Cousens, Lorrie Carey, Brendon Jackson, Alternate and Henry Carrier, alternate member.

Absent: Mark Kaplan

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

Regular Business:

- Open by Chair – 7 pm
- Roll Call – all in attendance but Mark Kaplan.
- Review and Acceptance of the September 17, 2019 meeting minutes – two amendments are needed. Line 93, the word Verizon needs to be ‘horizon’. Line 95 change the word lot to rock. A motion to approve the Minutes with amendments was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant’s Report – The Forest Fund has a balance of \$31,567.98. Gilmore explained they are self-funded this year so their expenses are coming out of their Forest Fund. Cousens questioned the Profit and Loss report showing a negative number. Easler explained that represents what they have spent out. Any questions can be handled through email and she will get answers from Katie Phelps, their accountant.

Old Business:

- Natural Resource Update – Abbe gave a presentation. Mark Kaplan submitted a letter. Abbe read the letter into the record. They met with Craig Tufts with Central NH Planning Commission. They would to put a survey out through Survey Monkey. They came away from their meeting with CNHPC with a few to-do’s. First is the Survey. Second they need to designate important/prime farmland. Abbe met with Agcom and the Historical Society regarding this. They are asking for participation from each Board. Designation of stone walls needs to be mapped. Ray Mercier has already mapped out the stone walls in the Town Forest. Abbe thought they might have a town meeting with the maps for people to see. That may be a challenge, however. Carey suggested utilizing existing events. Such as the elementary school. They will be doing a family night soon and that would be about 600 people. The church has a Coffee House the first Friday of every month and there is also a church supper. They could put a flyer in with the sewer bill. They could also put an article in the NewsVine. Carey will get an email out to Dee Blake to get something into the NewsVine. Carey will get Abbe the date for the school night. There is a question regarding a 250 or 300 foot buffer on rivers, streams and water bodies. Is it appropriate? Discussion regarding wetland buffers. FEMA maps should show that information. Gilmore said he wouldn’t designate the wetland being larger than it is. Carey was asked about water resources. Is she the appropriate person from the Water Precinct to ask about that? Walker Pond will not be used as a water resource as it would require a purification plant be built there. Easler was asked to print the Example of weighting scores/values for co-occurrence maps. Easler was not sure what was being asked. Abbe suggested the Wildlife action plan.

They should do a survey on line or by hand. They could have participation at a working session of the Commission. They could open the meeting to the town. Possibly in late November or early December. Gilmore said December would be better and they could do it at their regular meeting. Gilmore suggested they

51 invite Agcom, Historical Society, Planning Board, etc. Carey suggested a joint meeting with the Planning
52 Board. After some thought, Gilmore felt this meeting could wait until January, February or even March. He'd
53 prefer that to rushing it through. Easler feels that January would be best as they have budget coming up in
54 February. Gilmore commended Abbe and Kaplan on a job well done. Abbe said there is more to do. Central
55 Planning, Abbe believes, would like to wrap this project up.

56 57 58 New Business:

- 59 ■ Permits & Reviews – Two walks need to be done. Emery and Salem property. Emery is Mrs. Jones'
60 property on Goodhue Road. Cousens will pick a date and let Gilmore know and they would like Jackson
61 to come along. Jackson said he could do the walk on a Friday. Salem property, which is Gilmore's
62 property. He'd like to walk the stone wall between his property and Alan Hardy's property. He could
63 take the commissioners down to the corner where it starts and follow it up to the stone wall and to the
64 back side of Hardy's property. Gilmore will fill out the reports for both and send them in.
- 65
66 ■ GMI review – Easler and Gilmore went back to the site and saw that they had repaired the damage. It
67 looked like a thorough job was done. It was also seeded. A **motion** that they will make a recommendation
68 to the Planning Board that they have an engineer do a walk or survey to make GMI is in conformance was
69 made by Cousens, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote. Gilmore asked Easler to write
70 a memo to the Planning Board for a formal recommendation of an engineer. Carey asked about signage
71 being recommended with their last permit. Will it also be in this permit? Gilmore said they have the posts
72 up but they don't have the signs yet. Easler wanted clarification that the Code Enforcement officer will
73 not be checking up on them, but it will be the Engineer. They Board agreed – the engineer should
74 review all issues listed on the permit. It can be more frequently than once a year. Easler said the Town
75 has to let them know ahead of time.
- 76
77 ■ Budget for 2020 – Easler presented. Gilmore explained that this year they paid their budget out of the
78 Forest Fund as a benefit to the town as the Commission had the money. Next year they will have a budget.
79 Easler reviewed. She used their 2018 budget as a template. It is as follows: Professional Services -
80 \$400.00; Mapping & Research - \$400.00; Dues and Fees - \$700.00; Meetings & Travel - \$200.00;
81 Education - \$400.00; Supplies and Miscellaneous - \$100.00 for a total budget of \$2,200.00. Gilmore
82 asked if they overspent their budget in 2018. Easler doesn't believe so. Cousens asked if there were
83 enough there to pay the Forester? Gilmore explained that they have paid him out of the timber harvesting
84 money. A **motion** to approve the budget, as presented, was made by LaPierre, seconded by Cousens and
85 passed by a unanimous vote.

86
87 Gilmore asked Carey about the proposal that the water precinct has made to the commission authorizing
88 a feasibility study be done to have the water precinct turned over to the town. This puts their discussions
89 regarding purchasing Walker Pond on hold. Carey noted that there was a unanimous vote authorized the
90 town to do a feasibility study to have the town take over the water precinct. The selectmen, by a
91 unanimous vote, agreed to do that. Underwood Engineering would do the study. If this does work, the
92 town would get a new revenue source. It would be an asset, but one thing they would need to do is a build
93 a new well. Abbe asked how many users? Carey stated that there were just over 1,100. With Water Street
94 and Corn Hill Road development, if they wanted to provide water they would need to put in a water tank
95 or a booster system. Gilmore asked if there were a sewer district also. Carey explained that the lower end
96 of Boscawen has sewer. It is a town owned sewer. Public Works maintains it. Abbe asked how the town
97 felt about all of this. Abbe felt that maybe Public Works would have a water/sewer department. Carey
98 said that the water precinct has no employees. The cost of customer service and billing costs about
99 \$30,000/year which is cheaper than an employee with benefits, etc. Abbe asked if all the water department
100 property be included in this deal. Carey explained about all the assets. Carey said they were talking about

101 putting all of that land on Walker Pond into Conservation; all of Boscawen and Webster. It's about 68
102 acres.

- 103
- 104 ▪ Town Forest – Abbe hasn't spent much time out there. Cousens asked if it were being used. Abbe said
105 his wife said there are no more maps left in the mailbox. He added 20 more.

106

107 A **motion** to adjourn was made by LaPierre, seconded by Cousens, unanimous vote 8:06 pm

108

109 **Next Meeting:**

110 November 19, 2019

DRAFT