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CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan via phone, Norman LaPierre, Lorrie Carey, and Henry Carrier.

Absent: Brendon Jackson

Staff Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director, Rose Fife, Recording Secretary

- Meeting Opened by Chair 7:02 pm
- Roll Call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the Minutes from 10.15.19 – A **motion** to approve the Minutes as accepted was made by Carey, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – Conservation Commission Balance Sheet shows \$197,154.52 and in the Forest account shows \$31,588.28.

Old Business

- Natural Resource Update – Abbe reported that they have received the survey back they have been working on. It is a finished draft. The survey inquires how people enjoy the outdoors. Abbe took the survey on line to see how it worked. They have discussed getting an email list to Kellee Easler so that they can get the survey out possibly as early as tomorrow. Kaplan thought they should distribute the survey in several places. Abbe will ask Katie Phelps to put it on their Facebook page. They can possibly send it to the elementary school. Kellee Easler will check in with their contact Barbara Huckins who is at the Elementary School. Carey thought they would have to give the survey to the school and the school would send it to the parents. Kaplan suggested a cover email to send out with the survey. Abbe wanted to hold off until Thursday evening when Mark Kaplan gets home. Kaplan thought that keeping it moving quickly is a good thing. They should have the results before the town meeting in March. Gilmore felt that getting it out before Thanksgiving would be best. Kaplan suggested their Facebook page. He also suggested they ask everyone on each Board (ZBA, Planning, etc.) to send the survey out to 5 people or more. Kellee Easler said Linda can send out an email to all 4 Boards. Jeff, Laurie and Mark can provide header information and go ahead and get the survey out this week. Cousens is concerned that there was no feedback from the committee. Kaplan explained that he meant feedback about anything on the survey. They did receive some feedback. Cousens is also concerned that there are very few people in the town of Boscawen that will be able to answer the questions intelligently especially about agriculture and water. That is a concern. He's concerned about the number of questions. The water resource questions are not in their purview. He reviewed the questions on the survey that concerned him. He feels the results will be distorted by people answering the questions if they are not sure. Kaplan suggested a note in the survey that allows them to answer them or not answer the questions and move onto the next one. Gilmore said #8, 9 and #10 were concerning. Cousens said #4 also. Kellee Easler agreed. Carey suggested the question say 'do you know of any conservation land'. Carrier felt that they need to be specific to the body of water they are discussing. Carey suggested they segment the pieces out that the average person will not understand. Kaplan #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 people can answer. #8 and #9 maybe use Lorrie's ideas to bring this to the end as an option to

51 answer. #10 he doesn't believe is a hard question. Maybe move #12 up to the top of the list of
52 questions. Kaplan thought maybe they also break out #10 to go with #8 and #9 for the end as an
53 option to answer. Gilmore feels the hardest question is #8. Cousens thought they should put #12
54 as #1 will get the survey off to a good start. Abbe agrees. Kaplan wants a reminder to hit the
55 'submit' button when the survey is done. Abbe will have #12 moved to #1. Carey is advocating
56 taking the word 'surface' water out and changing it to 'body' of water. LaPierre thought that a lot
57 of answers will be tailored to type of people – i.e. hunters, hikers, etc. Abbe noted that at the end
58 of the survey you can click on the Town of Boscawen Conservation Commission. There is good
59 information on that site also. He'd also like to see the National Resource Inventory on the website.
60 Abbe asked Kaplan how long they need to leave the survey up. Kaplan thought a couple of weeks
61 at least. Abbe thought that maybe they should leave the survey up for a week after Thanksgiving.
62 Carey asked if they would like to see if the school can get the survey out this Friday. Yes. LaPierre
63 asked if the website has a counter. Kellee Easler will check with Katie Phelps. Cousens asked if
64 the survey was the basis of the report that Craig Tufts will give them regarding wildlife. Abbe said
65 yes.

66 New Business

- 67 • Permits & Reviews – none.
- 68 • Mail: A booklet from NH Timber Harvesting Council. A solicitation to the Timber Owners. They
69 would like money, but CC is already a member. NH Tree Farm program booklet. The Granite State
70 Tree Farmer is the publication. NH Association of Conservation Commissions sent a booklet. Trails
71 for People and Wildlife is another booklet they received. He will give it to Jeff Abbe. Abbe believes
72 they can get the same book at NH Fish and Game also.

73
74
75 Cousens, Gilmore and Abbe went to a Conference. It was at Pembroke Academy. It was an annual meeting.
76 Cousens did a workshop on wildlife. Gilmore attended one that went over the new wetland rules. He felt
77 that they should have been more tailored to Conservation Commission. He went to one about the beaver
78 and how to deal with them creating dams. You cannot trap them as it makes more room for new beavers to
79 move in. They talked about putting fences up around culverts, etc.

80
81 Kaplan had a conversation with Patrice Raucha who is involved with a group that is involved with the
82 Northern Rail Trail. She was telling him about the half mile stretch. She wants to get a sense of what
83 Boscawen thinks of that half mile stretch. Between Boscawen and Concord there is the Penacook Historical
84 Society that is working to purchase the train depot. The Concord trail people are trying to get a grant to
85 buy the segment between Concord and Boscawen. Northern Rail Trail is trying to get everyone on the same
86 page. Carey said they are having a public meeting this Thursday about a Brownsfield Grant to clean up the
87 area in Boscawen. Abbe asked if that would be the tannery sight. Carey said correct. Cousens said Jack
88 Field is on the Board of the Northern Rail Trail. Kaplan just wanted to bring it to everyone's attention.
89 Easler said they did a site plan review for the rail bikes that go from Concord to Boscawen. LaPierre said
90 the Friends of the Northern Line helped clean up the rail trail for them. Much more discussion regarding
91 the rail trail and the impacts in Concord, Penacook and Boscawen. River Road to Hannah Dustin is the half
92 mile trail.

93
94 Morrill's Easement – Gilmore reported all the funding is in place. They are doing some surveying. The
95 NRCS Grant was approved. They got an LCHIP grant also. It looks like it is moving forward.

96
97 Walker Pond – is now up in the air. It's likely that the town will be taking over the water precinct and that
98 means that will become town property. Gilmore reported.

100 Abbe – Veterans day, he spent the afternoon with Oscar Miller who is an Eagle Scout. They worked on
101 roughing in a trail. Carey asked for a background on Oscar Miller. Abbe met him at Old Home Day. He
102 lives at 1 Elm Street. He goes to Bishop Brady. He will be arriving at 8:15 pm to speak with the
103 Commission.

104

105 A **motion** to adjourn at 7:59 pm was made by Cousens, (who thanked Kaplan for calling in), seconded by
106 LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

107

108 **Next Meeting**

- 109 • December 17, 2019

110

111

112 *Respectfully Submitted,*

113 *Rose M. Fife*

114 *Recording Secretary*

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116 Addendum to the November 19, 2019 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

117

118 Oscar Miller came to meet with the Conservation Commission at 8:15 pm, after the regularly scheduled
119 meeting was adjourned.

120

121 Oscar presented his Eagle Scout project to Lorrie Carey, Lyman Cousens, Tom Gilmore and Jeff Abbe.
122 After introductions Oscar Miller discussed with the Commission that he would like to build two trail
123 benches with arm rests. The Commission discussed offering Oscar \$200 seed money from the Forest Fund
124 to help defray some of the cost of materials. The Commission would prefer pressure treated lumber be used
125 for rot resistance. Lorrie Carey offered some lumber from her garage. Oscar also volunteered to help lay
126 out the balancing rock trail and complete some signage that would guide hikers to the area. One sign would
127 warn hikers of the fragile environment, Rock Tripe, which grows on the balancing rock which is very old
128 and would ask to please avoid climbing on the balancing rock and lichen. Other signage will be needed
129 too, details to follow. Oscar has available to him a CNC machine for routing the letters. Cousens was
130 helpful in letting Oscar know this is his project, and to take charge of the organization of said project.

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