

1 CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
2 Boscawen Municipal Complex  
3 December 15, 2020  
4

5 Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan, Henry Carrier,  
6 Ed Cherian Jr. and Brendon Jackson. Norman LaPierre.

7  
8 Absent: Norman LaPierre  
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10 Staff Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director and Rose Fife,  
11 Recording Secretary.  
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13 Guest: Charlie Niebling, Town Forester  
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16 Due to the Covid-19/Corona Virus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency  
17 17 Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Board was authorized to meet  
18 electronically.  
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20 **Regular Business:**

- 21 • Open by Chair at 7:08 pm  
22 • Roll call done by Chair.  
23 • Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of November 17, 2020 and the Non-Public Minutes of  
24 November 17, 2020. Regular Minutes: Line 42 'reseeded' needs to be changed to 'reset'. They  
25 would like it to read 'who removed and reset the two granite gate posts'. A **motion** to approve  
26 the Minutes was made by Gilmore, seconded by Cherian. Roll call vote: AYE: Abbe, Cousens,  
27 Kaplan, Cherian, Carrier, and Jackson. NAY: none. Motion carries. A **motion** to approve the  
28 November 2020 non-public Minute was made by Gilmore and seconded by Cousens. Roll call  
29 vote: AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Cherian, Carrier, and Jackson. NAY: none. Motion  
30 carries.  
31 • Accountant's Report – No expenses were made against their Town Budget of \$2,200. The  
32 Town Forest Fund has a balance of \$27,230.93. Balance sheet for the Conservation Commission  
33 Fund shows \$223,868.33.  
34

35 **Old Business:**

- 36 • Discussion Items Town Forests. Abbe reported. They are getting new interest in the Boscawen  
37 Village Town Forest. They have had volunteers for trail work. Abbe did a webinar yesterday with  
38 the Merrimack County Extension. There is a Nature Groupie Program. People from all over the  
39 northeast. There was 20 people total in the webinar. They reviewed some of the things that other  
40 Town Forest and other Land Trusts are using in order to gather trail workers. The Nature Groupie  
41 portion of the Extension has over 4,500 participants. So if Boscawen ran a program with them,  
42 they may get 60 or 70 people to show up from around the state. They emphasize keeping group's  
43 small; less than 8. They run a number of programs. Many trail coordinators were there. He would  
44 like to share the information from that Webinar when it is forwarded to him. Also April 22<sup>nd</sup> is  
45 Earth Day and the Commission could do something for that.  
46

47 Niebling reported that the Creaser Farm was certified as a tree farm in years past. The signs on  
48 Lower Queen Street have been there all along. They may have to do a query with the Natural  
49 Resource Inventory to see if there were any plants that were endangered. It costs no money and if  
50 they recertify they can keep the tree farm. Gilmore wants to do that. Niebling will reach out to

51 Tim Fleury to get the process of recertifying moving forward. Gilmore likes the new sign placed  
52 at the new Village Forest. Gilmore thanked Niebling for the signage. Abbe reached out and got  
53 the Plexiglas for the sign. Abbe thought they should get a 4x8 sheet of Lexan for \$178.00. With  
54 the many kiosks that they may put up, a 4x8 sheet that they could cut would be more beneficial.  
55 Mike Stacy will cut it. Gilmore agreed to the 4x8 sheet. Gilmore asked Niebling if they should  
56 certify the Weir Road Forest also. Niebling reported that it already is certified. It was done about  
57 3 years ago. They are subject to recertification every 5 years. Abbe reported a lot of usage at the  
58 new trail head. Gilmore asked if they have any news about the survey. Niebling spoke with Web  
59 Stout a month and a half ago and Web thought he would be getting to it in early December. He  
60 hasn't heard from him since. Niebling thought it would be beneficial to wait until the Spring.  
61 Gilmore asked Easler to reach out to Web Stout again. Easler will send him an email. Cousens  
62 was worried that the utility company may take out some of the new town forest trees along the  
63 road side. Niebling didn't know anything about the utilities taking any of the trees out by the  
64 roadside. Abbe thought that there has been a big push to clear trees back from the poles to  
65 eliminate the outages. Cherian noted that they are taking whole trees down. Kaplan asked if the  
66 Conservation Commission had any discretion on that. Can the town negotiate what they take  
67 down? Easler stated that it was her understanding that it is by the property owner's permission.  
68 Kaplan asked if there was time to send a note out to people to let them know they can negotiate  
69 with Unutil about removing the big oak trees. Gilmore explained that the utility does have the right  
70 to take down the branches near the power lines. He thinks that there's not much the commission  
71 can do about it.

72

73 Gilmore wanted to thank Niebling and Abbe for their good work with the Boscawen Village Town  
74 Forest and the Original Town Forest. Abbe has written something up in the annual town report.

75

76 • Driveway Boscawen Village (Abbe) – Abbe spoke with Alan Hardy who asked him if the  
77 commission had any plans to plow the new parking area. He wasn't sure if they should. With the  
78 winters as they have been, he thinks they should leave it be and when the snowmobilers get in  
79 there they can knock down ruts made with a loader. He doesn't believe they will provide much  
80 winter time parking. Gilmore explained that the snowmobile club runs the groomer and it will  
81 knock down the banks. He doesn't believe they want it to be a snowmobile parking lot. It has  
82 occurred to Niebling that they were getting snow this week and it's time to move the guardrails.  
83 Abbe will tip them out of the way when they have enough snow for snowmobilers.

84

85 Gilmore contacted Brian Hotz regarding the Morrill Easement and he hasn't received anything  
86 back yet. As far as he knows it is all taken care of and all is done for that easement. He hasn't  
87 heard anything about the item discussed in non-public session as of yet.

88

89 Easler asked the commission if they would like to see plans for site plan review or subdivision  
90 before it went to the Planning Board so that they could weigh in on it. She usually gives the  
91 information to just the Chair. She thought perhaps that whole commission might like to get it to  
92 review. It was agreed that the entire commission would get the information, not just the Chair. In  
93 January the NRI will be added into the master plan.

94

95 Starting next month Kearsten O'Brien will start to attend the meeting. Easler and O'Brien will be  
96 switching out to share the responsibilities. Gilmore said they may cancel some meetings.

97

98 Cousens asked if there were any news regarding Walker Pond. Gilmore reported no news. Easler  
99 said they haven't gotten any plans in on Walker Pond. Cherian explained that the Water Precinct  
100 could sell the land without going to the Planning Board. He would like to remind everyone that

101 the Water Precinct has an annual meeting and they are always looking for someone to be on the  
102 Water Commission.

103  
104 Carrier volunteered his time to work with Web Stout to blaze the lines in the new Town Forest.

105  
106 A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm was made by Cousens and second Carrier. Roll call  
107 vote. AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Cherian, Carrier, and Gilmore. NAY: none. Motion passes.

108  
109 **New Business:**

110 None.

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112 **Next Meeting:**

113 • January 19, 2021

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115 *Respectfully Submitted by Rose Fife*

DRAFT

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ACTIONS from December 15, 2020  
Conservation Commission Meeting

Easler:

Send an email to Web Stout regarding the survey of the new town forest.

DRAFT