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CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
December 21, 2021
Draft Minutes

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair; Norman LaPierre; Henry Carrier; Jeff Abbe

Absent: Lyman Cousens, Matthew Burdick

Staff Present: Rose Fife, Recording Secretary, Kearsten O'Brien, Deputy Planning and Community Development Director

Regular Business:

- Open by Chair @ 7:00 pm
- Roll Call by Chair

The agenda was taken out of order to allow Stanley Balch to speak about planting Chestnut Trees in the Weir Road Town Forest. He found a nursery in Georgia that they can purchase the trees from. The company guarantees any purchase. He has planted 4 chestnut trees last year at his home and 3 survived. The company is sending him a replacement for the tree that didn't survive. The smaller trees seem to survive better. The cost is dependent on the height of the tree. He'd be willing to water them if the commission wanted to put them in the Town Forest. They need to be watered regularly. Abbe asked about the cost. They can be ordered on line from TyTy Nursery, which is in George. They will not ship them until April due to the New Hampshire winter climate. Abbe spoke with Niebling regarding where they would plant them. Mr. Balch reported they grow fast in the sunny areas. The more sun the better. Chestnut trees made up about 30-35% of the forest back at the turn of the century. It's a fast growing tree. O'Brien looked up the cost on the website and an American Chestnut – 1 foot to 2 foot tall is \$29.75 per tree; 2 feet to 3 feet tall is \$39.75 per tree. A tree 8 feet to 9 feet is \$169.75 per tree. Abbe thought they should purchase 10 of the small ones (2 feet to 3 feet high @ \$39.75 each.) A **motion** to purchase 10 chestnut trees to plant in the Town Forest was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote. The funds to purchase the trees would come out of the forest fund. O'Brien will purchase those tomorrow. Abbe will talk with Niebling about the location of the trees. Mr. Balch will work with Niebling to plant the trees. Mr. Balch also suggested they mark the trees out; i.e. put a fence around it as the deer like to eat the leaves.

- Accountant's Report – Town Forest account has \$23,223.06. The Conservation Capital Fund has \$91,328.39. Gilmore needs to see a copy of the line item for the Conservation budget.
- Review Minutes of 11.16.21 – Abbe found an error on line 45. It should be Walker not Walk. A **motion** to accept the Minutes with the amendment was made by LaPierre, seconded by Carrier and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Designate member for Action Items – no action needed. Please remove from future agendas.

Old Business:

- Town Forest Discussion Items – Abbe contacted Ashton regarding the maps. Once he received a sample he will ask O'Brien to print a couple for review. There were a number of trees down in the Weir Road Town Forest. Those are cleaned up. He has asked Ashton to delete Hurst Marsh from both maps. He met with Jerry Vasteroch regarding the snowmobile club's extension of Elm Street to the Town Forest through 2 private properties, not through Fish and Game's property. This would keep them off Dagody Hill. O'Brien reported that the Select Board approved that recommendation. Niebling and Abbe met with Webb Stout towards the end of November on the Creaser lot. They didn't set the 3 pins. Stout said he'd take care of it before Christmas. Abbe reported Niebling is 70% done with the Walker Pond field work. They should have a mini forest management plan by January. Niebling had a question regarding blazing and painting. The Walker Pond property lines are old but visible. Should Niebling refresh it? The Commission will discuss this with Niebling at the next meeting. Do they want to blaze the Village Town

55 Forest? Gilmore thought they had the corners on GPS. Abbe wants to propose that Aurel Mihai become
56 an Alternate Member in another month or so. Aurel Mihai is interested in doing so. O'Brien asked him
57 to fill out an application and email it to her.
58

59 O'Brien asked Gilmore about purchasing a GPS tracker? Abbe hasn't researched it yet. O'Brien asked if
60 she should reach out to the surveyor's to see what they recommend. Gilmore wants this as an item on the
61 January agenda.
62

- 63 • Walker Pond Discussion Items. Kaplan had nothing to report this evening. The parcel on the Webster
64 side sold. He will reach out to their Conservation Commission members after that went through. Gilmore
65 believes there is a committee that monitors the pond and perhaps he should reach out to them. Gilmore
66 reported on a Warrant Article being placed on the agenda at the town meeting to purchase the rest of the
67 dam in Webster. Michele Trombly approached Gilmore regarding a depth chain. Gilmore thought they
68 could work with them. Kaplan will reach out to them.
69

70 New Business:

- 71 • American Tree Farm System Certification – for the Boscawen Village Town Forest. Abbe reported that it is a
72 recertification. The Weir Town Forest is also due to be recertified this year.
- 73 • NHTOA 2022 Annual Fund – The Commission does not normally contribute to this fund. They are a member and
74 pay annual membership dues.
- 75 • Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH – They do not normally contribute to this fund.
76

77 Abbe wrote the letter for the annual report this year. He worked on that today and is making some progress. He
78 will be sure it gets to Nicole on time. He will run it by Gilmore before submission. O'Brien reported that they are
79 looking for pictures for the cover of the Town Report and added that to the Walker Pond Facebook Page. Abbe
80 reported that the News Vine just came out so they have time to get something in that paper. Kaplan asked if he
81 should put something in the News Vine article about the Warrant Article at town meeting. Gilmore reported that
82 the purchase of the dam is by the town, not by the Conservation Commission. The Purchase and Sales agreement
83 they signed with the water department includes the purchase of the dam. They just need approval at the town
84 meeting to finish that.
85

86 Next Meeting:

87 January 18, 2022
88

89 A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous
90 vote.
91

92 *Respectfully submitted,*
93 *Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*