CONSERVATION COMMISSION **Boscawen Municipal Complex Meeting Minutes** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 @ 7:00 PM Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norm LaPierre, Lyman Cousens and Mark Kaplan Also present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director, and Rose Fife, **Recording Secretary** Absent: Ed Cherian, Ex-Officio Guest: Charlie Niebling, Town Forester **Regular Business:** • Open by Chair at 7:00 pm. • Roll call: All members present except Ed Cherian. • Review and Acceptance of the 2.19.19 Minutes – A **motion** to accept the Minutes with changes as noted by the Chair was made by Cousens, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote. • Accountant's Report - Money has been added into the Conservation Commission fund. Funds for Conservation projects is up to \$174,958.19. The Forest Fund has a balance of \$37,000. As they have forgone the stipend that the town gives them, the extra funds from the Forest Account will cover that \$2,500. They may have to transfer money from the Forest account to that. Cousens questioned if they would be splitting the funds received for the select cut with the Selectmen. Gilmore explained that Alan Hardy had found something that said they could not put that money into the general fund. They can chose where the money goes. Easler explained that was how it was done in the past. Abbe

• Town Forest Update – Abbe reported. This spring they will have conservation mix for the skid roads. Niebling explained that late April will be the time to seed. Abbe explained that they need to re-establish the red Forest property line delineations. Niebling believes the last time they painted those boundary lines was in 1990. Abbe would like to get a few more signs made up. Target practicing in the Forest was also discussed. They may want to have a small sign made up saying it's not advised. Gilmore discussed finding a suitable location. Abbe felt it was something they should discuss further. Niebling suggested they talk with the Selectmen and the Police Department. Local past shooting ranges were discussed. It was agreed that Abbe could get more signs made up as they do have the funds. Niebling asked Abbe to get some pelletized lime. The new Town Forest Trails Map was handed out. They are in the mail box now.

explained to the Commission that next year the Town may want to do a Warrant to change it back,

allowing the Selectmen to put the money into the general fund.

Kaplan and Abbe met with Amanda Stone, State Specialist, Natural Resources and Land Conservation, of UNH Cooperative Extension. Abbe and Kaplan reported on Bio Blitz which was applied for through the Cooperative Extensive. They will do a one day inventory of the plants, animals, species, etc. in the Town Forest. The Bio Blitz is looking for something over 100 acres. They feels they fit the criteria. Kaplan said the Cooperative Extension makes it fun, like a scavenger

hunt and it's a good way to involve the town. Kaplan said if they win this, then maybe they can go to the high school and possibly have one of the seniors do their Senior Project on this. Are there people who could write a letter on their behalf to win the grant? Niebling said if they draft a letter for Fish and Game, he would agree to send it in. Niebling said Fish and Game manages the Hurst property which abuts the Town Forest. Kaplan asked for Niebling's input in that letter.

Old Business:

 • Natural Resource Update – Kaplan reported. They have broken down what is in Chapter 8 of the Master Plan. They met with Amanda Stone, State Specialist, Natural Resources and Land Conservation, of UNH Cooperative Extension to see what her perspective was. They should come back at the next meeting with more information. Easler will keep the Planning Chair in the loop. Cousens asked if the Regional Planning Commission would get involved. Easler said that it would eventually go back to Central NH Regional Planning Commission to finalize Chapter 8. Cousens asked who the representatives were for CNHRPC. Rhoda Hardy and Barbara Randall are the representatives. Abbe thought the information in Chapter 8 is very well updated. Easler explained that the updates were approved in December 2018. Kaplan, Abbe and Cherian will be meeting at the town hall on Friday at 3:30 pm.

New Business:

• Permits and reviews – A bill was received and \$70.00 payment made to NHTOA for their dues.

Discussion regarding the purchase of the Walker Pond property. This subject will be set aside for a while. Cousens doesn't want them to lose sight of it.

Gilmore met last month with the Forest Society and Rob Morrill regarding his property. Mr. Morrill is still thinking in the future he would like to move his barn out to this property. If they go with a NRCS grant, they have a limit of 1% of impervious area and that won't work with what Mr. Morrill wants to do on the property. If he puts his farm out there he would have about 20 acres if impervious surface. They won't make an application until this summer for that. Conservation Commission may want to discuss with Mr. Morrill a different kind of easement. NRCS is Federal. The Commission could do the easement themselves without an NRCS grant if Mr. Morrill would make the contribution himself. The Commission could make an exclusion zone, but they would have to make a new survey etc. Cousens said LChip is also a possibility. Niebling thought it would be a very competitive LChip application. Kaplan asked if they should be proactive and get ahead of it a little bit. Gilmore hasn't thought about looking for the money elsewhere. Forest Society is going to look into getting a waiver on 2% limit from NRCS. Niebling explained that Digit Taylor runs the LChip program. Niebling will email Gilmore their information. Kaplan suggested Five Rivers. Gilmore feels this is an easy property to manage and they could do it themselves.

• Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Gilmore is willing to serve again as Chair. A **motion** to nominate Gilmore as Chair was made by Abbe, seconded by Kaplan and passed by a unanimous vote.

A **motion** to nominate Abbe as Vice Chair was made by Gilmore, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

96	Abbe felt that they need to do more for public outreach. Gilmore felt they should do another Town
97	Forest day. Cousens suggested another day during Old Home Week.
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99	Abbe asked Easler if they had any feedback from their Minutes going into the News Vine.
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101	Niebling reported. He's going to do the Creaser lot inventory the week of April 16 th . He welcomes
102	anyone to join him for any part of the day. There is about 3 days of field work.
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104	A motion to adjourn was made by LaPierre, seconded by Kaplan and passed by a unanimous vote.
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106	Next Meeting: April 16, 2019 at 7pm.
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108	Respectfully submitted,
109	Rose Fife, Recording Secretary
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