

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
November 16, 2021
Final Minutes

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair; Lyman Cousens; Norman LaPierre; Matthew Burdick; Henry Carrier; Jeff Abbe, Mark Kaplan

Guest: Aurel Mihai, Hunter Payer, Gerald J. Bastarache

Staff Present: Kearsten O'Brien, Deputy Planning and Community Development Director

Regular Business:

- Open by Chair @ 7:00 pm
- Roll Call by Chair
- Accountant's Report – Forest Fund has 23,221.72 the big change is in the Conservation Fund because the Commission paid out for the Purchase of Walker Pond and the Morrill Easement which was 199,108.22. There is 91,326.78 left in the Conservation Fund.
- Review Minutes of 10.19.21 – A **motion** to approve was made by LaPierre, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

- Rules and Procedure- the Rules of Procedure were voted on passed at the 10.19.21 Conservation Meeting. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien gave the chair the finalized copy to sign. Chair Gilmore stated that in the Rules of Procedure it says to elect a Vice Chair and they have never formally done that. He nominated Jeff Abbe.
Motion made by Chair Gilmore to nominate Jeff Abbe as Vice Chair. Seconded by LaPierre. All in favor. None Opposed.
- Walker Pond – Kaplan created a working document regarding Walker Pond and a draft article that talks about Walker to put on Facebook or in the news vine. Kaplan said the pump house is a big issue that needs to be resolved. The ceiling has collapsed, there is a dry hydrant down there and the basement is flooded. He has talked to Public Works Director Hollins and they are going to see if they can pump it out and see what the best option is whether it is to keep it or knock it down. The doors have been welded shut. Kaplan shared the draft article with the Commissioners which is in regards to informing residence they purchased Walker Pond. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien has created a Friends of Walker Pond Facebook Group to help get members of the community who are interested in Walker Pond to give insight and ideas regarding Walker Pond. It also gives the Commissioners another way to communicate with residents and public about what is being done at Walker Pond. Kaplan said he will be reaching out to the Town of Londonderry to see what they have for usage of their ponds in Town. He will come back to the commission with more information on that at a later date. Kaplan discussed also creating a map for Walker Pond and if the commission would like to add trails on the parcels. Abbe said Niebling will be going out to Walker Pond November 22-29 to start field work and should have a document of forest management plan by January. Abbe said there is a number of trails with in the Walker Pond piece. Some of the ATV trails are within other property owners. Deputy PCD Director said the purchase of dam will be a Warrant Article for the Town Meeting. Kaplan said there will be \$2,500 in the Public Works budget regarding annual maintenance of the dam. Kaplan said they would need volunteers who would be interested in monitoring Walker Pond and doing some clean up here and there like the Trails Committee they have for the Town Forest. Lastly he asked the Committee if they would want an easement on the property. The committee decided to deem the parcels around Walker Pond as a Town Forest and will be trying to do so at a later date.
- Property Reviews – The Property Reviews for all Conservation Easements are complete.
- Town Forest Report- Abbe said the Trail Map is close to being finished and he is waiting to hear back from Ashton with Avitar. Abbe reported that there is about twenty names on the Trail Committee. Deputy

PCD Director O'Brien said that she has a Volunteer Service Agreement for the Volunteers to sign who will be doing work on the trails. Abbe said the Hirst Marsh Trails have been eliminated from the maps including the snowmobile trail. He will contact the City of Concord because the trail is still on their maps as well. Niebling has contacted the surveyor regarding surveying the Boscawen Village Town Forest but has not heard back from him yet.

- **Chair Gilmore motioned to re-appoint Norman LaPierre for a three year term on the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Abbe. All in favor. None opposed.**
- **Cousens motioned to re-appoint Thomas Gilmore for a three year term on the Conservation Commission. Seconded by LaPierre. All in favor. None opposed.**

New Business:

- Bastarche spoke in regards about the Snow Mobile Club re-routing a trail that went through Hirst Marsh because it was closed by NH Fish and Game. Bastarche has permission from Land Owners to start the trail from his property which is off of Elm Street and it would go through the Weir Road Town Forest. He asked permission from the Conservation Commission to use part of the Dagody Hill Trail. Abbe would like to walk it with Bastarche before the Commission makes a decision. Gilmore suggested that the commission allow Abbe to walk the Trail with Bastarche and make the decision on behalf of the Commission and then at the next meeting inform the Commission of where they decided.

Carrier motioned to allow Abbe to walk the trail with Bastarche and to make a decision on behalf of the Commission where the snowmobile trail will be and inform the Commission at the next meeting. Seconded by LaPierre. None opposed.

- Carrier informed the Commission that Stanly Balch asked him to see if the Commission would be willing to plant American Chestnut Trees in the Weir Road Town Forest. Carrier said that Balch would be willing to water the trees if the Commission would be willing to buy the trees. Carrier said that they should check with Niebling as to where a good spot would be to plant these trees. Chair Gilmore said that he thinks they should pursue this idea. Carrier said he will ask Balch to come to the next meeting to discuss the information on trees so they can move forward.
- Abbe asked if the Commission would be willing to purchase a GPS coordinate device that would help with sending shape files for the maps to Avitar. It is something the Town in general can use in different departments if needed. Gilmore said that sounded like a good idea and to get more information for the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

December 21, 2021

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm was made by Cousens, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kearsten O'Brien, Recording Secretary*