

**Town of Boscawen NH**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Boscawen Municipal Complex**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 18, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Mark Kaplan, Lorrie Carey, Henry Carrier, Brendon Jackson.

Absent: Lyman Cousens, Norman LaPierre

Staff Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director

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**Regular Business:**

- Open by Chair – 7:00 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the 1.21.20 Minutes – A **motion** to approve was made by Kaplan, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's report: \$201,818.92 in the Conservation Commission Capital Budget. Forest Account has \$31,548.03. That is what they are using for expenses until the budget rolls. The budget for next year does have their \$2,500.00 town stipend back in it. They have used it for mowing of the Town Forest, but the Town Forest account will be used for that. That money would be used for conferences, etc.

A notice was sent out for 'Saving Special Spaces' which is the State Conservation Conference held in Alton on April 4<sup>th</sup> which is a Saturday. Gilmore and Abbe will be going to it. If anyone wants to ride share and go, please let them know. Kaplan felt it would be interesting to go especially after they have done the NRI. Gilmore said they have a website that holds the agenda. If you decide to go, call Kearsten O'Brien and she will enroll you.

- Natural Resources: Update from Mark Kaplan. They met with Craig Tufts of CNHRPC who thought the meeting he had with the Commission was useful. They made a few adjustments on the map. Abbe said they adjusted the map. They only had 64 responses to the survey. But they did get good information to work with. Gilmore want the survey to be left up at least until the town meeting. They can talk about it at town meeting and suggest people take the survey. Kaplan also added a point to something along the river. Everywhere along the river in Boscawen is highly valuable land. The mapping colors changed some showing the different resources. One of the maps looked at unfractured land. They have large tracts of land in Boscawen. Kaplan enjoyed working with the company.

Kaplan wanted to think beyond when they get the maps in the next month/month and a half. What will they do with it when they have them? How will they use them? Gilmore met with the Webster Conservation Commission last week. Maybe they can share information. Gilmore goes to Contoocook and Upper River Advisory Board and he will mention this survey at both of those Board meetings. Kaplan thinks they will have an updated version before he goes to those meetings. One of the ideas was to turn it into some education opportunities for the town. UNH Cooperative Extension loves this. They can do something on wildlife or an educational piece. He was thinking of town education and communication; outreach. He thinks they should talk to Canterbury, Salisbury, Webster, and Concord's Conservation Commission as they share borders. Kaplan thought they should take this to the Planning Board or AgCom. Easler reported that in the ten year plan they will have 2 new traffic circles, one by Roger Sanborn's home. Easler reported they will be working on Economic Development with the Master Plan this year. Gilmore stated they will use the NRI as a resource. Kaplan spoke regarding land trusts and what areas they focus on. NH Forest Society has been involved in some of their projects. i.e. the Morrill easement. Gilmore explained that the Morrill easement was appraised at over \$350,000 for the conservation easement. Conservation put up \$130,000 for that. Mock's would probably be a lot more than that. Kaplan thought he'd like to reach out to Trust for Public Land to see what they have to offer. Easler asked if anything was on the map that showed the Creaser property. She thought it was important as town meeting was coming up. Kaplan showed them on the map. Gilmore felt they should go to town meeting to give

support for that. Carey felt that the Commission could give the people at town meeting more facts. Carey suggested that if they had someone who is a hunter or a snowmobiler to stand up and talk about why the forest is important for that enjoyment. Niebling and she spoke about how if you weren't a hunter or snowmobiler you could be someone who snowshoes or hikes, etc. that person could speak as well. Easler suggested Kim Kenny who is a teacher and may do public speaking and could talk at town meeting. Gilmore explained that they are looking at doing a connecting trail from the school to the Creaser property. Carrier asked how many people were against Creaser's being made into a Town Forest. Carey noted that at least one budget committee member was not happy about it. Jackson noted that you do not need to use this land to have an appreciation for natural resources. This is beneficial to people that never step foot on this property but have compassion about wildlife. Jackson would be willing to speak. Discussion ensued as to how they should discuss the Creaser property at town meeting. Easler reminded the Commission that the hike is still happening on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am with Niebling. They are meeting across from the gun shop. Abbe thought it may be more beneficial to meet at the school instead. Carey suggested they ask her Aunt Heather if they could park at her house next to the entrance of the Creaser property.

Gilmore spent an evening with the Webster Conservation Commission. This was in light of last week's discussion. They are concerned about development along Walker Pond. They do not allow development on Class VI roads. In order to develop on Class VI they have to get a variance and permission from the Select Board. They were pleased that Webster was not in favor of it either. They are concerned that it is a wetland area. Their Conservation Commission would like to put together some proposals to enhance the wetland rules. Abbe doesn't believe they need to do that in Boscawen. Easler asked if they knew that Webster used to be a part of Boscawen. Water District meeting is on Monday before Town meeting if anyone would like to attend that one. Jackson gets water from the district. Carrier doesn't get it as he's on Weir Road.

- **Permits & Reviews:** No permits. Gilmore mentioned they had information about grants. Easler mentioned that NH Environmental Services is offering a grant. Easler gave the application to Carey to look at.

Abbe gave a short report regarding the Eagle Scout project. He is planning on building 2 benches with a rustic look. It's slow moving.

Jackson has an interest in water fowl conservation. He has 3 wood duck nesting boxes that need a home. If anyone knows of an area that is a secluded area with standing timber and water. Gilmore invited to put them on his property. Abbe said he would take one and put it out in the Forest.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Kaplan, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting:**

- March 17, 2020

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*