

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes - Final
Tuesday, May 15, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norm LaPierre and Lyman Cousens
Also present: Alan Hardy, Planning & Community Development Director, Edward Cherian, Ex-Officio
Guest: Ray Mercier (OLLI), Henry Carrier of Weir Road

Regular Business

- Open by Chair
- Roll call
- Review and Acceptance of the minutes of prior meeting minutes – A **motion** to approve the Minutes was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe, and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – Gilmore noted the town treasurer is suggesting that the Bank has talked about changing their account status so that they would be money market accounts and earn more interest. They have 3 accounts. The town forest account, the conservation commission account and conservation commission capital fund account, which is the largest one. They use that one for major projects.

Old Business:

- Town Forest Update: When they went out to do monitoring, they found that a number of monitoring wells were disturbed when they did the logging. Some Monitoring wells were lost and they need to be replaced. Abbe asked if they should bring this up with the Logger. Gilmore said they should be made aware of it and speak with Charlie Niebling about that. They should receive funds back due to this. Abbe said they have insurance for those purposes.

OLLI visited the Town Forest. Ray Mercier thanked the town for coming out to greet his group that he took out there. He had 7 people turn out. He thought it was low due to the description in the catalogue. He has been asked to go back out and do something for the Historical Society and Conservation Commission sometime this summer.

Hardy noted that the replacement of the well down by the brick building needs to be done. Gilmore thought that Hopkinton Forestry may have disturbed the wells and asked Hardy to check with Niebling about that. Hardy said once replaced they can mark them so that they are visible. Abbe asked if they could split the cost with Hopkinton Forestry. Hardy said that would be an option.

New Business:

- Small Fish & Game Grants – Cousen said he was working with Niebling to come up with a project. This subject will stay on the agenda until action is taken. Cousen is ready to move forward with the grant. They need a specific project and he is waiting for Niebling to talk with him about that.
- New Easements – Gilmore has done some work on the Morrill Easement. He was able to talk with Ryan Young of the Forest Society. Mr. Young will be leaving that office soon but he referred him to Brian Hotts. Mr. Young gave him maps and photos on the Morrill property. They need to find out what the expense will be. Gilmore wanted permission from the Commission to contact the appraisers, which Forest Society gave him a list of, and to negotiation and contract with them for the appraisal. NRCS would only do 50% so they would have to have

50% come from other sources. Gilmore said they have approximately \$150,000 in their fund. Hardy said they have \$167,900. A **motion** to allow the Chair to contract to pay for the appraisers was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote. It is the policy of the Town of Boscawen when property comes out of current use, the penalty paid would go into the Conservation Capital Fund. Hardy said the conversion penalty is 10% of the value at conversion. There are several properties coming out of current use.

- Report of Planning Conference – Gilmore attended this conference at the end of April. He went to a lecture on legal issues. It was more for Planning vs. Conservation. Cousens noted that he also attended the Saving Special Places conference that was noted in last month's minutes.

- Permits and reviews – State Veteran's cemetery is expanding. Gilmore sits on the Upper Merrimack Local Advisory Committee and they commented because they have to do a stream crossing and they want to put a box culvert in. Cousens said \$400,000 was raised to go for building The Heritage Learning Center.

- NHTOA Upcoming Classes – Classes are coming up. They are more oriented to loggers, but if anyone is interested.

- Letter to change accounts at Franklin Savings Bank – they have 3 separate accounts. Hardy said the town has 19 accounts. Hardy said conservation can control their own monies that is why they have 3 accounts. Hardy noted that the third account is the operating account that is the town's account. The other two the commission does control. Hardy said they will take advantage of the business money market. LaPierre asked if moving the money would not allow their access to it. Cherian said no. A **motion** to move change the accounts was made by Cousens, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Currier spoke with the Commission. He was interested in what was taking place in the Town Forest, so he came to hear about that. Gilmore said they have a forestry management plan that they could share with him if he'd like. He'd like to be sure it's not over cut.

Abbe talked about the reseeded they did about 3 weeks ago. They will have bittersweet spraying soon. Hardy said that Fish and Game also work with Niebling.

Cousens asked about Walker Pond. Hardy and Gilmore have not heard back from them regarding the offer they made. Hardy is asking the selectmen to get involved. Cherian is not sure that a letter from the Selectmen will be of benefit.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm was made by Cousens, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: June 19, 2018 at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary