

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes - Final
Tuesday, June 19, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

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

First speaker is Charlie Niebling, as Town Forester.

Ed Cherian left the meeting at 7:45 pm. The meeting ended as he left.

Regular Business

- Open by Chair 7:05 pm
- Roll call taken
- Review and Acceptance of the minutes of prior meeting minutes: No action was taken on the May Minutes.
- Accountant's Report: No action was taken.

Old Business:

- Town Forest Update:

Abbe asked if the work that still needs to be done in the Forest could be done through a small grant. There is about \$800 in seed to buy. Niebling thought the grant would cover that. Abbe asked if it would cover wild flower seed as well. Niebling thought it would. Abbe would like to do the seeding this Sunday if possible.

Hardy said a drilled pipe was broken off. Abbe wants the stub left lower because it stood up 5 feet. Hardy thought the Commission did well by letting the contractor know it was an issue before they were done.

Niebling walked out in the forest this morning and the work looks good. They don't need to do harrowing, but it would definitely improve the conditions. The contractor did a good job and moved the bulldozer from the open field back to the landing to get picked up. He let Chandler Herrick know they expect the landing to be smooth before they leave. He also asked them to right the pipe at the gate that needs to be made vertical. HFCLC committed as far back as last November to get that done as well. Abbe noted that there is no berm by the marsh, but there should be silt fencing or a berm of some sort. Niebling said he intentionally asked them not to stump that area. Sheet erosion is more of a concern going into the beaver pond. Abbe felt the bolder left was more of a concern for them. Niebling said they buried stumps within the 75 foot buffer of the beaver pond and they weren't supposed to. There's nothing they can do to fix that. He doesn't believe it will be an issue with the water though. It will re-vegetate pretty quickly, naturally. If you want hay bales, they can do that. Niebling noted that the regrowth of pine that's coming in is fantastic.

Abbe explained that he had a conversation with Gilmore and Hardy and they felt that whatever money was owed to HFCLC, they could call it even. The Commission could pick up the remainder of the \$2,700. Niebling said that the \$4,200 was not to be exceeded to replace all 3 wells. He spoke to Dean of DPW and he thinks it will be less than that. Abbe said that if Dave Herrick is agreeable, they will call the contract complete with the exception of

the punch list. Niebling said they did 98% of what they should do. Cherian asked how much they were owed. Niebling thinks it is about \$2,721.00. Cherian asked if when DPW was done, the Conservation Commission would pay the DPW back, correct. Hardy said they will pay the contractor out of the general fund when complete. When he spoke with Gilmore he thought that the Commission should be responsible to the town so that DPW doesn't spend town funds to make it right. Abbe agrees. Niebling said that ultimately the contractor is responsible for that expense. Dave Herrick would prefer not to file a claim and would prefer to trade services vs. write a check. Hardy asked what the difference was. Niebling said they would ultimately owe the town about \$1,500.00. Cherian noted that the initial quote was to fix all the wells. Hardy didn't think waiting would be an issue. Niebling said it's preferable to get that field seeded sooner than later. Abbe has a group of people that will help seed. Niebling said it was Dave Herrick's suggestion to spread wood ash. He doesn't know what that would cost. He was hoping Dave Herrick would be here tonight to answer that question. Resource Management in Holderness will truck and deliver it to the site and then you load it into an ash spreader and he doesn't know if Dave Herrick does that or not. Niebling apologized that Dave Herrick wasn't here. Dave Herrick had assured him he would be here at 7 pm. Niebling will try to get in touch with him tonight or tomorrow morning and have him give the Commission a quote for harrowing, ash spreading, and seeding. The Commission would supply the seed. Niebling suggested to have DPW proceed to fix the wells so they know what that cost is. Abbe said that whatever they owed Dave Herrick would go to DPW for fixing the wells. Niebling noted that HFLC would have to do paperwork to say they agreed to that. Abbe had concerns with the skidway through the farm spread. Niebling talked with Chandler Herrick Friday morning and he moved the pile of wood debris near the left of the barn foundation but didn't smooth out that area. Abbe said if they get digging in the skidway there will be a problem. Abbe feels it was left rough. Niebling won't ask them to bring the dozer back in there again. Dave Herrick is tough to work with. He's not a good communicator and not very attentive to things.

Cherian is there another cut this year? Niebling said he has a harvest in mind up on Dagody Hill. They could do it in the fall or winter. What he wants to avoid is having a late start and getting into the fall mud season. He'd propose that harvest for September, early October or wait until the ground is frozen. Abbe asked if they would do that with a cable skidder. Niebling wasn't sure. He'd like a return on the biomass. He'd like to leave an unharvested buffer along the Dagody Hill trail. They can specify that cut as a cable only or non-mechanized harvest or non-chipping. HHP in Henniker has a cut to length crew. It's a machine that will drop the tree, limb the tree and cut log length, leave the top already limbed to the ground. A forwarder comes in to pick up the log length wood. This sale will be heavy to oak and most of what HHP saw is oak and they pay well. Cherian asked if he would come back closer to the proposed harvest time with a proposal. Niebling said yes. It will have to go out to bid. Cherian asked about the wood market right now.

Hardy asked if they wanted to act in 30 days or wait. Abbe said they need Dave Herrick's estimate. Hardy suggested they could continue this discussion to next month. Niebling noted that in hind sight they probably could have documented certain contingencies better than they did.

Cherian apologized as he has a family commitment so he needed to leave.

Discussion by the Commission and Henry Carrier regarding shooting in the Town Forest. Mr. Carrier feels that Hardy had some great ideas. The forest should be open to everyone. Cherian noted that the Board of Selectmen discussed this and there is an expectation that people going in the forest during hunting season wear blaze orange, etc. Hardy asked where the sign should be placed about the target practicing. Abbe thought at the entrances. Hardy said they can post one on the Concord side also. Hardy said as long as the hiker's know there's a possibility that someone may be in there sighting in their rifle, etc. Mr. Carrier thinks that for the most part people with fire arms will be responsible. When you are target shooting you have to have a back stop. Abbe asked what ideas they had for a sign.

Cherian had to leave for another commitment at 7:45 pm.

Abbe asked Mr. Carrier what they would put on the signage for target practice notice. Hardy said they aren't having vandalism by weapon, no one is being disrespectful. Any of those things start to happen and they will have a different problem. Mr. Carrier suggested something to the effects of "This forest is to be enjoyed by everyone, respect everyone's rights. Hardy suggested contacting the Local Fish and Game Conservation Officer to see if they had any suggestions. LaPierre felt that would be a good idea. Hardy will make contact with Fish and Game to see if someone will help them.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm was made by Abbe, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: July 17, 2018 at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary