

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex**

**Final- Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 18, 2018 @ 7:00 PM**

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norm LaPierre, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan and Edward Cherian.

Also present: Alan Hardy, Planning & Community Development Director, Rose Fife, Recording Secretary

Guest: Henry Carrier

Regular Business

- Open by Chair 7:00 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of August 21, 2018. Changes as follows: Page 3, Line 2 Kaplan instead of Chaplan. Also Page 1, #8, Lyman Cousens is absent, not missing. A **motion** to accept the Minutes was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – Money was spent out of the Town Forest budget this month. Assets still show \$14,400 but that will change. Money is still owed to HFLC. They are still waiting on the repair to the wells though. Hardy explained that the grant money from Fish and Game came through; \$3,400. Gilmore noted that the grant money was added to the Town Forest account.

Cherian wanted the Commission to spend some time thinking about what they want in their budget as budget season is upon us. Hardy gave an explanation on how the Conservation Commission Budget is brought forth. Cherian thought that it should be put on next month's agenda to discuss the budget. Hardy explained that they receive \$2,200 as the contribution from the general fund. Gilmore explained that the Town Forest budget is self-funded. The capital fund budget is a big item in their budget, which is not controlled by them. The Commission was given budget page handouts. Hardy explained that page 1 shows expenses by category. The money coming out of the town budget is the \$2,200.00 shown on the first page. Whatever isn't spent goes back to the general fund. Abbe shared with the Commission that there are some great training opportunities coming up at Pembroke Academy. Discussion regarding what memberships they pay for out of this \$2,200.00. Hardy will bring a detailed report to next month's meeting to show their expenses. Cousens asked about the P&H on page 1. He asked about the land use change tax. Hardy explained that the Knowlton property has come out of current use. He explained the Land use change tax is 10% and the fair market value is 10%. He explained that those taxes need to be paid before C.O. Cousens asked if there was only one property that came out of current use this year. From 1/1 to 9/18/18 they've collected \$4,250 in land use change tax. It was noted that the labeling of the funds on the reports submitted was confusing. Cherian asked for all money to be put in the Land Use Change Tax column instead of the way it is labeled now. Hardy will have Katie recode this in the morning. Cherian asked for a transaction register which would make it easier. Hardy explained that the Detail Report will show that. Gilmore noted that there is approximately \$170,000 in the Conservation Fund. They do have an offer out to purchase Walker Pond at \$40,000 and the Robbie Morrill easement at the corner of Long Street and Water Street, which would at least be \$100,000. If the grant comes in, it would only be for half of the value.

Mail: Letter received from NH State Veterans cemetery who note that they are putting a bridge over a brook. They have a notice saying it is approved. Notice for upcoming classes/training. Hardy explained that if anyone wants to go to the classes let Linda know. They have a request for a campaign contribution for NHTOA. Gilmore doesn't believe they normally do that. Cherian had information that there is a Local Energy Solution Conference at Grappone's Conference Center. He believes it is on 10.25.18. He will forward the information. The NH Municipal Association 2 day conference in Manchester is in early November he believes. They also received a newspaper called Conservation News. They also received a newspaper called the Official Newspaper of the NH Farm Bureau Federation. Hardy said that the town is a member.

- Town Forest Update – Abbe presented. They had a tour that went well. They had 45-46 people. They had 16 Weir Family descendants. The field was finished yesterday, flattened and seeded. Cherian asked if they sent a thank you note to the ‘tour guide’. Abbe said he will take care of that. Cherian thought they should have those tours every year, late September or October when it’s cooler. Gilmore thought they needed more benches out there to sit on. Gilmore will talk to Niebling to see if they could get a butt log to create seating. Cousens asked if NH Fish and Game should be sent a summary/report of how they spent the grant money. Abbe thought so. Abbe also noted that there is quite a bit of bitter sweet coming back. He’d like to have Doug from NH AG come back in to spray. There is also a lot of glass out there at the Homestead. Abbe reported trail work has been done. Matt St. Onge has done a lot to help them. Cherian asked about the block house. Gilmore said he didn’t see any reason to protect it, but they don’t want to spend money on it. Cherian felt they should take it down. Abbe agrees. Gilmore asked where to dump the debris. Abbe said he’d take it to the dump. The gravel pit will always take any concrete debris.

New Business

New Easements – Gilmore reached out to Mr. Hotz again. The last word was they would be coming out with new guidelines. Hardy said to be patient as they are very busy. Cousens asked who Mr. Hotz was. Hardy explained that he manages for the Forest Society for the acquisition of land. Gilmore wants to deal with the Forest Society on this acquisition, not Five Rivers as Mr. Morrill also has other projects with the Forest Society. Gilmore explained that the appraisal came in. The grant process would be for 50%. Kaplan asked questions regarding the process, as he is new to the committee. Much discussion ensued regarding the process. Cherian asked if there was a map of conservation property in the town. He’d like to see that map. Hardy will make a full size map of the land that is in conservation.

Walker Pond: Hardy is getting closer to having a draft to send out to the group. Cherian asked if deed, title and survey had been done. Hardy noted it’s being worked on.

Annual walks are due on the 3 properties that they have. Gilmore will arrange them.

Transportation alternatives program: \$463,000 grant to acquire the last .6 tenths of rail easement to bring them to the Boscawen side of the bridge going into Concord to extend the rail trail to go to Hannah Dustin island. They should know by January if they win the grant. They submitted the grant paperwork in before the deadline. Conservation will be involved only because there is wetland all around that .6 of a mile.

Mark Kaplan explained that as a new member he would like to be a productive, helpful member. He looked at the NHACC, which is the founding rules for Conservation Commission. He came up with some “Must do’s” and “May/Can do’s”. They can utilize to see where they are in the process. He would like to know what he can do to be helpful. Much discussion ensued regarding what property may be targeted for conservation based on the information of what the town now has for conservation property.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm was made by Abbe, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: October 16, 2018 at 7 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary