

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

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

Also present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director and Rose Fife, Recording Secretary, Charlie Niebling Town Forester

Regular Business:

- Open by Chair at 7:04 pm.

- Roll call by Chair.

- Review and Acceptance of the minutes of prior meeting minutes: A **motion** to accept the Minutes as submitted was made by LaPierre, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.

- Accountant's Report w/Year End 2018 – The Conservation Capital Account has \$174,613.08 in it. Kellee reported the Land clearing came in at \$37,008.94. It was \$33572.10 as of December. Gilmore said they had a bill to pay for Forestry Services of \$3,683.45. They had a net income of \$34,570. Gilmore asked Cherian if the Selectmen wanted to split the gross or net income 50/50. Gilmore thinks they should split it after the bills were paid and a check should be written to the Town of Boscawen for \$17,298.72. Cherian wants to defer payment until he meets with the Selectmen to see if they want to split it after the cost for the Forester is paid or based on the profit prior to that bill being paid. Gilmore said they grossed \$37,270 prior to expenses. Gilmore said the Commission will defer this item until Cherian has had a chance to speak with the Selectmen.

- Town Forest Update – Abbe walked the Forest and they talked about ideas for signage for the Blue Ridge trail. He is hoping to have something for town meeting. Gilmore wants them to consider more benches. Abbe said he will look into it. There was discussion regarding a "Resource Survey" of the Creaser property. Niebling gave them a proposal for that work of \$3,500. They would pay half up front and the other half when the work was completed. He noted that they would have an inventory and a management plan. He will find corners, he will set GPS coordinates for the corners, do a timber inventory, documentation of unique features, and special sites. A **motion** to contract Niebling to do so was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbey, and passed by a unanimous vote.

Niebling noted that as soon as Spring comes, he'd like the Commission to consider purchasing some conservation mix and lime and seed down the skid trails that were reopened during the last logging job. Abbe said he'd take care of that. Gilmore asked if they would need anything else to put on the field. It was thought that nothing more was needed, they shouldn't need to fertilize the field.

Abbe met with Ashton one more time regarding the trail map. He has nothing new to report until he receives the second draft. They need a new log book at the register when you enter into the forest.

New Business:

- Natural Resource Update

- Natural Resource Inventory

- Identify Key areas of focus

- Determine how to take next steps (work group/volunteer, etc.)

Gilmore would like a subcommittee created for this with Kaplan as the Chair. They need to be careful not to have more than 2 members at the meeting at a time. Cousens is in favor of this. Kaplan liked the presentation from last

month. He read Chapter 8 of the Master Plan and was amazed at how much work was done. Kellee Jo Easler noted that it was done with the help of Central NH Regional Planning Commission. Kaplan said pages 31 has 5 objectives laid out. Abbe asked if they had Chapter 8 at all for Natural Resources before. Kellee Jo Easler said no. She thinks it was started in 2016.

Kaplan asked if there were a couple of people on the committee to sit with him and go through the objectives and figure out how to move this forward. Gilmore suggests that he find a citizen outside of the Commission or maybe someone from the Ag Commission. Abbe will try to get some other people involved as well. Cherian said because it's controlled by the Planning Board maybe they should reach out to Barbara Randall and see if they would like to get involved.

Kaplan asked about the 40 acres that they were looking to purchase from the Water Precinct. Gilmore said they are not clear in what they are doing with the land. They will know more after Town Meeting.

- Permits and reviews – none.

Cousens reported that an article was submitted to the News Vines about the small grants program.

A **motion** to adjourn was made by LaPierre, seconded unanimous at 7:32 pm

Next Meeting: February 19, 2019 at 7pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*