

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
October 19, 2021
Final Minutes

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair; Lyman Cousens; Norman LaPierre; Matthew Burdick; Henry Carrier; Jeff Abbe, Mark Kaplan

Guest: Charlie Niebling, Forester, Nate Preisendorfer, and Aurel Mihai

Staff Present: Rose Fife, Recording Secretary, Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director and Kearsten O'Brien, Deputy Planning and Community Development Director

Regular Business:

- Open by Chair @ 7:00 pm
- Roll Call by Chair
- Accountant's Report – Town Forest account has \$44,110.17. The Conservation Capital Fund has \$195,683.94. Forest Fund has \$25,300.31. Town budget line item has \$1,932.24. Paid out money for Walker Pond Easement. They took in \$50,390 for Conservation Use.
- Review Minutes of 09.21.21 – A **motion** to approve was made by LaPierre, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

- Walker Pond – They have closed on Walker Pond. Gilmore has asked Kaplan to be in charge of what they plan to do out there. He thought they should have Niebling do a survey on the larger of the two lots. Niebling asked if he would like an inventory. Gilmore thought an inventory would be useful. They should consider putting that into the forestry program. Niebling asked if that would be a tree farm. Gilmore agreed; tree farm. Abbe asked if Niebling would do a Forest Management Plan. Niebling said that was correct. He would take care of that sometime in the next 8 weeks. Abbe asked if that would be for the 92 acre parcel. Niebling explained it would be for the 53 acre parcel. Gilmore suggested Kaplan look at the building that is there and make a recommendation on what they should do with it. Kaplan wanted to discuss a list of what the commission thought he needed to assess so he could get a baseline. Easler explained that Dean Hollins has the keys to the pump house right now. She believes they were discussing taking that building down. Kaplan asked Niebling if he could join him when he walks the property. He'd like to know what he needs to monitor on this property. He was told by a resident that someone took 2 boards out of the dam that regulates the flow. Does he need to do some sort of regular monitoring? Gilmore believes so. The town doesn't own the dam yet. Half the dam is in the town of Webster and they cannot purchase it without a Warrant Article at the town meeting. Although it is in the purchase and sales agreement that Boscawen will purchase the dam. Easler suggested Kaplan check with the Water Precinct. Gilmore thought that Webster may have a group that he could contact. LaPierre asked if they would continue to enforce the horse power regulation on the pond. Abbe thought the sign that states what the horse power can be is still in place. Niebling noted that the State of NH regulates the amount of horse power, but the town may have the authority over access. Gilmore wants to know what the rules are about limiting horse power on that small pond. Kaplan will reach out to a few people and bring back information at the next meeting.
- Property Reviews – There are 2 properties needing review every year. One is Goodhue Road which is owned by Mrs. Jones. Cousens and Gilmore will handle that as Cousens is a neighbor. The second is the Gilmore property at 233 Water Street. He'd like someone to volunteer to walk that property. Carrier and Abbe will walk that property. Abbe asked when they have to be done. Gilmore thought before snow flies.
- Easler reported on an email she sent to Gilmore from Loren Martin regarding doing an easement on her property which is between Gilmore and Hardy's properties. Gilmore spoke with Mr. Martin who mentioned to him that he would like to look at doing an easement on their property. They will need to

- find out about funding. Gilmore asked Easler to suggest that Mrs. Martin contact him.
- Town Forest Discussion Items – Abbe reported. Trail crew is here this evening. The lower trail needed to be closed to the Hirst Marsh. The proposed trail is higher. Niebling sent the suggestion to NH Fish and Game’s Lands Committee and it was denied. They want to keep the back side of the pond as wild as possible. Their reasoning is that recreational trails affect wild life. Their proposal is that they use the snowmobile trail on the Queen Street side of the marsh. He sees issues there with encroachments. The bridge on the property may be on Fish and Game property so there is a lot to look at. LaPierre reported to the snowmobile club at their last meeting that Fish and Game had been at the Conservation Committee meeting. Scott told him they hadn’t been contacted yet. Gilmore thought a snowmobile trail is less destructive than a walking trail.
 - Abbe submitted a photograph of a sign used at the Andrew Brook Trail near Sunapee. It encourages you to stay on the trail, which states it is a privilege not a right. He thinks the Prison could make these signs inexpensively. He believes 12 of these signs would be a good start.
 - Tree Stands – Abbe reported that people have asked permission to put a tree stand up. He hadn’t dealt with this before. This will go before the Selectmen. O’Brien stated it will go to the Board for signature this week. (There has been a formal request letter created, which was in the packet material for the meeting. This will be the format used for requesting permission.) Abbe thought something should be added saying that the tree stand needs to be removed at the end of the season. O’Brien stated it’s a yearlong permit. She checked with Fish and Game. Abbe has found 3 or 4 tree stands. Some are so old that the tree has grown around the stand.
 - Village Town Forest – Abbe spent Monday up there. He brought a map of the Marsh Overlook Trail. He needs to go back and get the GPS coordinates for more. He’s still looking for trail signage – numbers or names? They need signage and blazing. He has the names of the abutters of the new town forest that they need to contact to provide them with signage to keep people on the trail.
 - Nate Preisendorfer stated that names or numbers for signage and the color of the blaze correspond with the color of the trail on the map would work. Abbe wants to get a map on the kiosk. Abbe reported that the trails are cut and are passable. He needs help with signage or numbers. Niebling thought that there is enough issues regarding trails that a trails subcommittee or work group is warranted. Niebling would be interested in being involved with that. They could deal with this and come back with recommendations. Abbe likes that idea. O’Brien reported on how this would best work with the town’s insurance carrier – they may need to have to name alternate members to enable this committee to move forward. Gilmore thought perhaps an informal gathering of trail users would work. Easler reiterated that if you are out there doing work, the town would want them covered by their insurance. Abbe thought they are on the right track. Preisendorfer asked if the 4 of them could sit down and talk trails. O’Brien said that would be okay, but if they are doing the physical work they need to become an alternate member.
 - Hunting Season -
 - Signs: Wear Red or Orange – need to be worn when walking through trail. Abbe thought that anyone who hikes this time of year knows this. Burdick reported that the Select Board recommends that this signage is on the kiosk. Gilmore agreed they could put a sign up there. O’Brien will take care of that tomorrow. Preisendorfer reported that in other towns it may say “multi use area” and this could be used for hunting and/or recreation.
 - By-Laws update and review – Gilmore asked if everyone had reviewed them. A **motion** to approve the By-Laws as revised was made by Cousens and seconded by Carrier. Easler noted that they need to change it from By-Laws to Rules and Procedures. All agreed. Motion passed by a unanimous vote. Gilmore wanted it noted that the Rules and Procedures had verbiage in there that stated that the select board member who sits on the commission is not a voting member. Burdick stated that was correct.

New Business:

- 2022 Budget. Gilmore suggested that it be the same as years past. Due to Covid and Zoom meetings they haven’t spent all the funds. The budget pays for memberships and dues. They will ask for the same again. A **motion** to request the same amount as they have for this budget cycle was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.
- NHACC Dues & 51st Annual Meeting & Conference 11.6.21 (Zoom) – Abbe asked if everyone received

a Newsletter from them. They are having their annual meeting. The dues need to be paid out of the town budget line item.

- 2022-2023 Meeting Dates – They will meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month as they have in years past.
- New Easement Discussion – Easler brought this up in discussion above. It was regarding Loren Martin.

Abbe asked if he could get a dozen signs made. Gilmore agreed he should. Abbe said there have been a ton of trees come down in the forest due to the winds. One on Colby Loop came down. Niebling will cut it so it's not across the trail. John Fife did mow the fields this weekend. The Commission would like to thank him for the excellent job he does.

Non Public:

None.

Next Meeting:

November 16, 2021

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm was made by Cousens, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*