

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

November 17, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan, Henry Carrier, Ed Cherian Jr. and Norman LaPierre.

Absent: Brendon Jackson

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

Guest: Betsy McNaughton

Due to the Covid-19/Corona Virus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Board was authorized to meet electronically. The Town of Boscawen utilized the GoToMeeting platform.

Regular Business:

- Open by Chair at 7:00 PM.
- Roll call
- Review and Acceptance of the Minutes & non-public Minutes from October 2020. A **motion** to approve the Minutes was made by Abbe, seconded by Cousens. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Cherian, Kaplan, LaPierre, Gilmore and Carrier.
- Accountant's Report Old Business: Capital fund has \$217,713.68. No changes. Out of that amount there has been a commitment of \$130,000 for a conservation easement. Town Forest Fund has \$27,228.56. Some payments have been made out of this account such as the NRI and mowing of the Town Forest. Conservation Commission's Town Budget is \$2,200.00. They will ask for the same amount for the next Budget cycle. They have only spent \$617 out of this fund.
- Discussion Items Town Forests: Easler reported that Charlie Niebling has won the NH Tree Farm of the Year Award. They will present it to him in September 2021. Easler will confirm the date with Niebling. Abbe has made a "hookeroon", which is a log throwing device made from an ax. He'd like the Commission to award it Niebling for the fine work he has done with the Commission. Gilmore would also like to send a letter to GMI for the work they have done for the Commission. Abbe concurred. Warren Colby responds to texting better than anything. Abbe would like a letter sent also. Easler was asked to send a thank you letter to Warren and Renay Colby of GMI's to let them know they appreciate the work they have done. Also requested to be sent out was a thank you letter to Boscawen's DPW who removed and reset the two granite posts. They did a great job. Gilmore received a letter from the snowmobile club asking about the concrete pads at the entry and if they could drive over it. Abbe will set them aside for snowmobile season. Abbe thinks that at this time putting up a hard gate isn't a good idea. Conservation Commission has been given signage to put up giving notice that no wheeled vehicles, trail bikes or ATV's are allowed. They have been placed at the entry posts. Mountain bikes and non-motorized bikes would be okay. The posts are 6x8 and 7 feet long.

- Rail Trail Discussion:

- A **motion** to go into non-public session under RSA 91.a.3.2.d at 7:16 pm was made by Gilmore and seconded by Kaplan. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abbe, Gilmore, Cherian, Cousens, Kaplan, and Carrier.

A **motion** to come out of non-public session at 7:26 pm was made by Gilmore and seconded by Abbe. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Cherian, Carrier, and Gilmore. Motion passes.

A **motion** to approve the non-public meeting minutes of October 2020 was made by Gilmore and seconded by Cherian. A **motion** to approve the action taken in the non-public this evening was also made. Roll Call Vote for both motions: AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Cherian, Carrier, and Gilmore.

- Natural Resource: Mark Kaplan reported that they haven't done anything since the last meeting. They have a list but they have been unable to get to it. Abbe agreed.

New Business:

Budget for 2021: A **motion** to request the same budget that they had for 2020 was made by Cousens and seconded by Abbe. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Carrier, and Gilmore. Cherian abstained.

Betsy McNaughton spoke. She works for Fish and Game and does land conservation for them. She's lived in town about a year. She was involved in the Conservation Commission in Deering for many years. She has interest in the commission but would like to see what is happening right now before participating. Gilmore gave her an overview of the year's activities and how the budgets were handled. Kaplan interjected that if Betsy would be more than welcome to work with Abbe and himself on the Natural Resources inventory. Betsy wondered what that was about. Kaplan explained. Abbe asked Easler to give a copy of the Natural Resource Inventory to Betsy.

Forester Charlie Niebling reported. His property on North Water Street was awarded the Outstanding Tree Farm Award 2021. He asked if the commission had reviewed the kiosk and trail head sign designs and he'd like to know if he can start building them. O'Brien shared her screen showing the sketches of the kiosk for the commission to see. Niebling reported that this will be a timber framed kiosk with timber from his land. Gilmore asked where the kiosk would be located. Niebling explained that it would be on the right near the guard rail posts. Abbe put a grade stake with a blue ribbon there. Niebling explained that the posts will be made of pine and put in the ground 3 feet and will be 4x4 pressure treated wood. The sign board will be birch veneer plywood with Plexiglas over it. The sign template was also shown. Niebling explained that the sign would be 18" deep by 42" wide. It will be routed on both sides. It will be suspended from a 4x4 treated post cross beam over the stone wall. It will not extend into the right of way. It will be visible from both directions. Underneath that they could have a smaller sign saying trails, etc. He hopes to have it done by Christmas.

Easler asked Kaplan and Abbe if they were planning on attending the December 1st Planning Board meet that they invited Greg Tufts to attend. Kaplan would like to be there. Abbe agrees.

Abbe discussed the New Town Forest. He's discovering the amount of trail network that is already there i.e. old skid roads or ATV trails that already exist. They will need to come up with a trail map system and eventually will need approval to spend some money on making those maps. This is for the Boscawen Village Town Forest. Gilmore believes he can go ahead and take care of that.

- Conservation Easement Monitoring:

Gilmore noted that they did take care of the easement monitoring. He and Cousens visited with Mrs. Jones. They filed all the paperwork.

Cherian asked Easler about the encroachments to the Boscawen Village Town Forest. Easler spoke with Web Stout a few weeks ago. Her understanding is that he will plan on coming out and taking care of the property after the leaves are off the tree. She gave Niebling his contact phone number and email. Stout did offer to do it for half price.

A **motion** to adjourn at 7:57 pm was made by Abbe and seconded by Cousens. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Cherian, Carrier and Gilmore. Motion passes.

Next Meeting: • December 15, 2020.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*

ACTIONS from November 17, 2020
Conservation Commission Meeting

Easler:

1. Send letters to GMI and DPW thanking them for the great job they have done with the new town forest work.
2. Get a copy of the NRI to Betsy McNaughton

Abbe & Kaplan:

Attend the December Planning Board meeting.