

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan via phone, Norman LaPierre, Lorrie Carey, and Henry Carrier.

Absent: Brendon Jackson

Staff Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director, Rose Fife, Recording Secretary

- Meeting Opened by Chair 7:02 pm
- Roll Call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the Minutes from 10.15.19 – A **motion** to approve the Minutes as accepted was made by Carey, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – Conservation Commission Balance Sheet shows \$197,154.52 and in the Forest account shows \$31,588.28.

Old Business

- Natural Resource Update – Abbe reported that they have received the survey back they have been working on. It is a finished draft. The survey inquires how people enjoy the outdoors. Abbe took the survey on line to see how it worked. They have discussed getting an email list to Kellee Easler so that they can get the survey out possibly as early as tomorrow. Kaplan thought they should distribute the survey in several places. Abbe will ask Katie Phelps to put it on their Facebook page. They can possibly send it to the elementary school. Kellee Easler will check in with their contact Barbara Huckins who is at the Elementary School. Carey thought they would have to give the survey to the school and the school would send it to the parents. Kaplan suggested a cover email to send out with the survey. Abbe wanted to hold off until Thursday evening when Mark Kaplan gets home. Kaplan thought that keeping it moving quickly is a good thing. They should have the results before the town meeting in March. Gilmore felt that getting it out before Thanksgiving would be best. Kaplan suggested their Facebook page. He also suggested they ask everyone on each Board (ZBA, Planning, etc.) to send the survey out to 5 people or more. Kellee Easler said Linda can send out an email to all 4 Boards. Jeff, Lorrie and Mark can provide header information and go ahead and get the survey out this week. Cousens is concerned that there was no feedback from the committee. Kaplan explained that he meant feedback about anything on the survey. They did receive some feedback. Cousens is also concerned that there are very few people in the town of Boscawen that will be able to answer the questions intelligently especially about agriculture and water. That is a concern. He's concerned about the number of questions. The water resource questions are not in their purview. He reviewed the questions on the survey that concerned him. He feels the results will be distorted by people answering the questions if they are not sure. Kaplan suggested a note in the survey that allows them to answer them or not answer the questions and move onto the next one. Gilmore said #8, 9 and #10 were concerning. Cousens said #4 also. Kellee Easler agreed. Carey suggested the question say 'do you know of any conservation land'. Carrier felt that they need to be specific to the body of

water they are discussing. Carey suggested they segment the pieces out that the average person will not understand. Kaplan #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 people can answer. #8 and #9 maybe use Lorrie's ideas to bring this to the end as an option to answer. #10 he doesn't believe is a hard question. Maybe move #12 up to the top of the list of questions. Kaplan thought maybe they also break out #10 to go with #8 and #9 for the end as an option to answer. Gilmore feels the hardest question is #8. Cousens thought they should put #12 as #1 will get the survey off to a good start. Abbe agrees. Kaplan wants a reminder to hit the 'submit' button when the survey is done. Abbe will have #12 moved to #1. Carey is advocating taking the word 'surface' water out and changing it to 'body' of water. LaPierre thought that a lot of answers will be tailored to type of people – i.e. hunters, hikers, etc. Abbe noted that at the end of the survey you can click on the Town of Boscawen Conservation Commission. There is good information on that site also. He'd also like to see the National Resource Inventory on the website. Abbe asked Kaplan how long they need to leave the survey up. Kaplan thought a couple of weeks at least. Abbe thought that maybe they should leave the survey up for a week after Thanksgiving. Carey asked if they would like to see if the school can get the survey out this Friday. Yes. LaPierre asked if the website has a counter. Kellee Easler will check with Katie Phelps. Cousens asked if the survey was the basis of the report that Craig Tufts will give them regarding wildlife. Abbe said yes.

New Business

- Permits & Reviews – none.
- Mail: A booklet from NH Timber Harvesting Council. A solicitation to the Timber Owners. They would like money, but CC is already a member. NH Tree Farm program booklet. The Granite State Tree Farmer is the publication. NH Association of Conservation Commissions sent a booklet. Trails for People and Wildlife is another booklet they received. He will give it to Jeff Abbe. Abbe believes they can get the same book at NH Fish and Game also.

Cousens, Gilmore and Abbe went to a Conference. It was at Pembroke Academy. It was an annual meeting. Cousens did a workshop on wildlife. Gilmore attended one that went over the new wetland rules. He felt that they should have been more tailored to Conservation Commission. He went to one about the beaver and how to deal with them creating dams. You cannot trap them as it makes more room for new beavers to move in. They talked about putting fences up around culverts, etc.

Kaplan had a conversation with Patrice Raucha who is involved with a group that is involved with the Northern Rail Trail. She was telling him about the half mile stretch. She wants to get a sense of what Boscawen thinks of that half mile stretch. Between Boscawen and Concord there is the Penacook Historical Society that is working to purchase the train depot. The Concord trail people are trying to get a grant to buy the segment between Concord and Boscawen. Northern Rail Trail is trying to get everyone on the same page. Carey said they are having a public meeting this Thursday about a Brownsfield Grant to clean up the area in Boscawen. Abbe asked if that would be the tannery sight. Carey said correct. Cousens said Jack Field is on the Board of the Northern Rail Trail. Kaplan just wanted to bring it to everyone's attention. Easler said they did a site plan review for the rail bikes that go from Concord to Boscawen. LaPierre said the Friends of the

Northern Line helped clean up the rail trail for them. Much more discussion regarding the rail trail and the impacts in Concord, Penacook and Boscawen. River Road to Hannah Dustin is the half mile trail.

Morrill's Easement – Gilmore reported all the funding is in place. They are doing some surveying. The NRCS Grant was approved. They got an LCHIP grant also. It looks like it is moving forward.

Walker Pond – is now up in the air. It's likely that the town will be taking over the water precinct and that means that will become town property. Gilmore reported.

Abbe – Veterans day, he spent the afternoon with Oscar Miller who is an Eagle Scout. They worked on roughing in a trail. Carey asked for a background on Oscar Miller. Abbe met him at Old Home Day. He lives at 1 Elm Street. He goes to Bishop Brady. He will be arriving at 8:15 pm to speak with the Commission.

A **motion** to adjourn at 7:59 pm was made by Cousens, (who thanked Kaplan for calling in), seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting

- December 17, 2019

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rose M. Fife
Recording Secretary*