

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
March 16, 2021  
Minutes

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan, Norm LaPierre, Henry Carrier, and Matt Burdick.

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: Charlie Niebling

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Due to the Covid-19/Corona Virus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency 17 Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Board was authorized to meet electronically.

**Regular Business:**

- Open by Chair at 7:03 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Accountant's Report – Conservation Commission Fund - \$239,843.65. Forest Fund \$27,234.06. Nothing has been spent.
- Review Minutes of 2.23.21 – Cousens – the order of public and non-public line 93 to 95 is out of order. 97 to 100 should be non-public. 87 to 89 should be back at the end of the non-public session. Section about the confirming the property should be in nonpublic session. Tom said it was appropriate to be done in public session, not in nonpublic session. Gilmore said all motions need to be made in public, not nonpublic. He thought Walker Pond information should have been in nonpublic. Abbe had issues with corrections – line 45 should say Boscawen Village Town Forest and line 72 should regarding the Marshall property it say it should say Abbe stated that a grey horn owl may be nesting in the area by the owner.

A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Cousens, seconded by Abbe. Vote: AYE: Gilmore, Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, LaPierre, and Carrier.

**Old Business:**

- Discussion Items Town Forests – Gilmore wanted to recognize an email they received this week about a tree down and Abbe had the tree removed before anyone noticed the email! Thank you Jeff! Abbe reported that a lot of limbs were down due to high winds. He is working with Ashton at Avatar and has a second draft they are working on for the Boscawen Village Town map. There should be 1 or 2 more drafts after this one. Niebling looked at it with him and they have some further ideas for it. They should have something by April.

- Morrill Easement – nothing new to report. A public hearing will be needed to disperse funds when it is time to do so.

#### **New Business:**

- Draft FEMA – Maps – Easler – everyone was sent a link to the FEMA maps for review. They are looking for feedback. She would like to bring it to the select board on Thursday. There will be two webinars to explain the mapping process. She sees nothing that she is concerned with. Gilmore didn't notice anything. Kaplan didn't receive anything from Drop Box to go to the FEMA maps. Easler will have Kearsten send out the link to him.

A **motion** to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91:A II (d) was made by Abbe, seconded by Cousens. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Gilmore, Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, LaPierre, and Carrier. The Commission invited Charlie Niebling to remain.

A **motion** to come out of nonpublic session and go into public session was made by Abbe and seconded by Cousens. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Gilmore, Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Carrier, and LaPierre.

#### **PUBLIC**

A **motion** to allow Easler to obtain the Purchase and Sales Agreement and to also allow the Chair of the Conservation Commission to sign it once completed was made by Cousens and second by Abbe. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Gilmore, Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Carrier, and LaPierre.

Gilmore asked if they wanted to discuss the dam. They could take the money from the Forest Fund to support the costs to review the dam, as long as they are small expenses. If the town does purchase the dam it would be maintained by the town. Easler explained that the cost would be put into the Public Works budget. Niebling doesn't believe the Forest Fund is the correct source of funds to cover that expense. The Conservation Commission fund is a highly appropriate use for this. The commission wanted to amend the motion to have the funds come from the Conservation Commission fund. A **motion** to utilize Conservation Commission funds to support the expense to review the dam was made by Kaplan and seconded by Cousens. Roll Call Vote: AYE: Kaplan, Cousens, Abbe, Carrier, Gilmore and LaPierre.

Abbe reported that he attended a meeting yesterday as part of UNH Extension regarding the nature group blog site they have. They want to do Great New England Clean Up Days from April 17 to April 25, 2021. The pandemic has changed the way the BioBlitz grant they applied for last year is issued. They will be taking action in September and it will be for multiple town forests. A Virtual ID walk for naturalists will be available. The BioBlitz would like a species count. UNH would help supply a good portion of volunteers and the publicity if Boscawen is are selected.

Gilmore thought the nature walk on Niebling's property was well attended and very good.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm without a motion or vote. Cousens wanted to thank Easler for doing a great job.

**Next Meeting:** • April 20, 2021

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*