

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
May 18, 2021
Minutes

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan, and Henry Carrier, Matthew Burdick, Norman LaPierre. Abbe arrived at 7:10 pm.

Absent: Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan

Guest: Charlie Niebling, Town Forester, Webster Stout, Tom Berkeley (Riveredge Properties)

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

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 7:05 pm. Henry Carrier will be a voting member.
- Roll call by Chair.
- Accountant's Report – The Forest Fund paid \$1,459.77 to Avitar out of their account to do mapping. The balance in the account is \$25,772.78.
- Review Minutes 04.20.21 & 05.03.21 – A motion to accept the Minutes from both meetings was made by Gilmore and seconded by Carrier. Roll Call Vote: Gilmore: Aye, Burdick: Aye, Carrier: Aye, LaPierre: Aye. Motion passes.

Old Business:

- Town Forest Discussion Items

New Business:

- Public Hearing Morrill Easement Discussion – they will have a public hearing to disperse the funds on June 15, 2021. They have a commitment to pay \$130,000 out of Conservation fund for the easement. This payment will be made in July.
- Meeting with Riveredge Properties 183D 16 1 – Web Stout presented. He is the surveyor. They wanted to meet with the Board. The Conservation Commission hasn't seen plans for the project yet. Easler explained that the Planning Board has seen the plan and it is also on the town website. It can be found on the home page under current planning application. Mr. Stout gave an overview of the project. Also present with him to answer questions are Jeff Burd, the civil engineer on the project as well as Tom Berkely, the property owner. The project is located behind Marshall's Fire Arms. It is 19 acres. It has frontage on North Main Street as well as King Street. They are proposing 1,650 feet of new road with 19 lots. They have to impact 1,375 s.f. of wetlands at the beginning of the project. The land itself is flat. There is about 3 feet difference in elevation from the road to the wetlands. They will be tying into the municipal sewer and water. They will handle the drainage on site. Gilmore asked about the storm water. Jeff Burd explained that it would go into a detention pond which will be built next to the road. Gilmore explained that there was a recreation trail that went through that property that went to Route 4 and to the river. He asked if they had discussed this with anyone, and what will be happening with that. Mr. Berkeley said it's mainly used as a snowmobile trail and he said it can be used as such until they build houses in there. It would then be up to the individual home owners if they would like to continue the trail through their property. They could reroute the snowmobiles. Gilmore explained that in the future the Conservation CC FM 5.18.21

Commission will be recommending that the Planning Board require a recreation area in any subdivision. This project is worry free of that restriction. Abbe's concern is with the Boscawen Village Town Forest across the street and the connection with the recreational trail that currently crosses on route 4/3. It is paramount this is addressed. Burdick asked the size of the wetlands that is being affected. Mr. Stout explained that they are proposing to fill 1,375 s.f. plus or minus. Jeff Burd is working with the State of NH as far as the impact of the wetland. There will be a guardrail there. Mr. Stout asked if the Conservation Commission wanted to walk the property. Easler has a site walk is set up for the property on June 1st at 6 pm and then they will take the public meeting to the Boscawen Elementary School for an in person meeting. It will start behind Marshall's Gun Shoppe. Easler explained that it will be a public meeting and only the Planning Board will be able to speak until they open the meeting at the elementary school. Burdick asked if there were any drone video's showing the scope of the project. He'd be interested to see what it was and where it is going in real time vs. blue print. Mr. Stout suggested that the site walk would help more. The property has been logged. Abbe asked about storm water and the wetland area. Jeff Burd explained that they size the detention pond based on the amount of impervious land. They go for the minimum size they can that will work for the project. This site had a natural area to put the detention pond. The pond will be approximately 4,000 s.f. Gilmore acknowledged that the commission will have a chance to review this as they need to sign off on the wetland permit. Jeff Burd explained that because this application is a minimum impact the Conservation Commission may be asked for their input, but the DES will take that input in letter form. It is only when there is an expedited wetland application that the commission needs to sign off. Burdick asked if the recreation access could be done through the ravine. Mr. Stout said no, the ravine is at the beginning. When it gets down to King Street it is 60-65 feet deep. Steep slopes. Gilmore noted that the snowmobile club has found an area where they could access it.

- Review Intent to Cuts and Wetland Issue on High Street – Gilmore reviewed them. One is his property that Adam Mock is going to log. Another one is for Adam Mock's property on Water Street and then again on North Water Street behind the town pound.

Easler asked if Gilmore had looked at the wetland complaint off of High Street. Gilmore hasn't driven by there yet. He understands the complaint was made to DES and DES sent them a letter. Easler will be going out with the DES compliance person to walk with them to see what the situation is. That may happen next week or the week after. As she understands it, there is a boundary dispute between property owners taking place right now. If anyone would like to join her, she will send out the date. Gilmore would like to know the date to see if he could join her. Easler recommends he go out with someone else first and not go alone. She's not sure if there will be issues with the property owners. Abbe volunteered to join Gilmore if he'd like. Burdick asked for the address on High Street. Gilmore said 437 High Street. Easler believes there is access to it from Tote Road which is a private drive. Easler spoke with a surveyor who is planning to survey the property for one of the owners.

Town Forest Discussion Items – Abbe reported. He has the second draft of the trail maps for the Boscawen Village Town Forest. He asked Niebling to take a look at it and mark it up. He met with Niebling last evening. They will have 2 or 3 more drafts before they get a finished map. They would like trail names for loops etc. The one that leaves from Marshall's; there is a bee line to go straight up the hill. It is primarily a ski run coming down and a steep rocky trail going up. They also want to name one Knowlton Loop. Abbe has asked for names a few times and hasn't gotten input. Gilmore said if you number it for now they can put a name into it later. Niebling said they should acknowledge the snowmobile club regarding the kiosk. They should put some information about the snowmobile club on the kiosk. This trail does leave town property and enter onto private property and he believes they need to have signage telling people to stay on the trail as it is private property, that this is a privilege, not a right.

Gilmore wanted to ask Niebling about the 45 acre parcel on Walker Pond to see if he wants to do a forestry plan for that. Kaplan will be the lead on that.

Burdick asked how the maps were being created. Abbe explained the maps are on GPS. They are tracking existing skid roads. This was logged heavily in 2007. Gilmore would like to do a meeting in person but it is up to the Select Board. Burdick stated that individual committees do different things. Easler will let the CC know when the meeting space will be available to meet in person. Easler explained that the Planning Board is meeting at the Boscawen Elementary school. The town just doesn't have the space to house the distance that is required. Abbe suggested the kiosk at the Boscawen Village Town Forest as there is plenty of room at the kiosk and there is plenty of parking. Easler said that they can use the portable audio recorder the town has to record for minute taking.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gilmore, Abbe. No roll call vote.

Next Meeting:

- June 15, 2021

*Respectfully submitted by,
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*