

1 **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **Boscawen Municipal Complex**

3
4 **January 21, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**

5
6 Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Lyman Cousens, Norman LaPierre, Lorrie Carey, Henry
7 Carrier.

8
9 Absent: Mark Kaplan

10
11 Staff Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director

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13 Guest: Forester Charlie Niebling

14
15 **Regular Business:**

- 16 • Open by Chair – 7:00 pm
- 17 • Roll call by Chair
- 18 • Review and Acceptance of the 12.17.19 Minutes – A motion to approve the Minutes was made by LaPierre,
19 seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.
- 20 • Accountant’s Report – Conservation Fund balance is \$201,624.82. Forest Fund has \$31,527.92. Another
21 Budget line item should be added next month when the budget is reviewed. They would go back to the amount
22 they used to have either \$2,200 or \$2,500. Carey stated that the Board of Selectmen was appreciative of the
23 Conservation Commission forgoing their budget amount last year.

24
25 **Old Business:**

- 26 • Morrill conservation easement received the LCHIP grant. That project is almost fully funded.
- 27 • Natural Resource Update – Gilmore suggested they postponed this item to the end of the meeting.
- 28 • Discussion Items Town Forest – Charlie Niebling spoke. An information sheet was handed out regarding the
29 Creaser Lot. The Select Board approved the Creaser lot to be included in the Town Forest. Niebling was here to
30 help explain to the citizens at the town meeting what this was all about. Niebling asked if there was any other
31 outreach they would like to do leading up to town meeting. Would the commission like to sponsor a Saturday
32 hike? Gilmore thought that it was a good idea for them to sponsor a winter hike. He thinks something in April
33 would be good. Niebling talked about different hiking loops that they could do. Niebling thought a Saturday in
34 February or the Saturday before town meeting would be a good time to do a hike. March 7th was the date that
35 was agreed upon. Cousens asked if there were a contact with the Concord Monitor to possibly do a story about
36 this. Abbe wanted it advertised in the February NewsVine. Niebling will do the write up and send it to the
37 NewsVine. Jackson asked if Boscawen had any language on permitted uses on Boscawen town land. Gilmore
38 said no motorized vehicles, other than snowmobile trails. Jackson asked about hunting, etc. He asked how many
39 people took the survey. Carey explained that 58 surveys came in. Carrier asked if they would have a chance to
40 read the Warrant Article. Easler explained that the Article was already submitted. Abbe asked Niebling if he
41 saw any reason it wouldn’t pass. Niebling doesn’t see any reason it wouldn’t pass. Niebling asked if they
42 thought it would be a problem with him presiding over this Warrant Article. Gilmore didn’t think it would be an
43 issue. Niebling noted that the Town Forest has had many hiking visitors.

44
45 **New Business:**

- 46 • Permits & Reviews – A letter from Katie Phelps discussing extra money being put into Land Use Change
47 and Conservation Budget. They have a Conservation News Bulletin. There is a notice of an incomplete
48 statutory permit. Easler asked if it was Map 47. She said that was a cut that was not done. NHTOA
49 submitted a request for funds.

- 51 • Walker Pond: Gilmore stated its being reviewed by the Selectmen whether or not the town will take over the
52 water department. Carey stated that this was not going to happen this year.

53
54 A motion to go into Non-Public session, as per RSA 91a:3, II(d), at 7:26 pm was made by ??, seconded by ??
55 and passed by a unanimous vote.

56
57 A motion to come back into the public meeting at 7:36 pm was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and
58 passed by a unanimous vote.

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60 A motion to seal the Non-Public Minutes was made by Abbe, seconded by Cousens and passed by a
61 unanimous vote.

- 62
63 • 7:30-8:15pm Craig Tufts CNHRPC – The Survey was discussed. NRI – natural resources inventory. This is
64 a document that catalogues the natural resources of the town which has maps included. Kaplan and Abbe
65 have worked with him. The survey reflects what people in town think of natural resources. He listed all
66 natural resources and he has a map that reflects those. They are called data layers. i.e. Agricultural land is a
67 data layer, wildlife habitat is another. He explained how he layered each of the items in the survey onto the
68 map. Cousens asked where the data layers came from. Mr. Tufts said that the scores came from the survey
69 and the data layers come from a variety of different sources. He will post all of the maps on line. He heat
70 map is a very good tool. They are working on a document that will be more detailed. LaPierre asked if he
71 was aware of the GPS mapping of snowmobile trails or recreational trails. Mr. Tufts said he was not aware if
72 that data was available yet. Cousens felt that the information on the trails were important. The survey shows
73 hiking and walking are important. Mr. Tufts said he's interested in the places that were mentioned in the
74 survey several times. He'd like to look into that further. The survey is still open for people to take. Mr.
75 Tufts would like to sit down with Abbe and go over the information and get more detail. Abbe suggested
76 that they do that when Kaplan comes back into town. Mr. Tufts will put maps in a Drop Box account and
77 send a link.

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79 A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm was made by LaPierre, seconded by Cousens and passed by a
80 unanimous vote.

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82 **Next Meeting:**

- 83 • February 18, 2020

84
85 *Respectfully submitted,*
86 *Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*