

**Town of Boscawen, NH**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Boscawen Municipal Complex**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 21, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**

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

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

Guest: Forester Charlie Niebling

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**Regular Business:**

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

**Old Business:**

Morrill conservation easement received the LCHIP grant. That project is almost fully funded.

- Natural Resource Update – Gilmore suggested they postponed this item to the end of the meeting.
- Discussion Items Town Forest – Charlie Niebling spoke. An information sheet was handed out regarding the Creaser Lot. The Select Board approved the Creaser lot to be included in the Town Forest. Niebling was here to help explain to the citizens at the town meeting what this was all about. Niebling asked if there was any other outreach they would like to do leading up to town meeting. Would the commission like to sponsor a Saturday hike? Gilmore thought it was a good idea for them to sponsor a winter hike. He thinks something in April would be good. Niebling talked about different loops that they could do. Niebling thought a Saturday in February or the Saturday before town meeting to do a hike. Cousens asked if there were a contact with the Concord Monitor to possibly do a story about this. March 7<sup>th</sup> was the date that was agreed upon. Abbe wanted it advertised in the February NewsVine. Niebling will do the write up and send it to the NewsVine. Jackson asked if Boscawen had any language on permitted uses on Boscawen town land. Gilmore said no motorized vehicles, other than snowmobile trails. Jackson asked about hunting, etc. He asked how many people took the survey. Carey said 58 survey's came in. Carrier asked if they would have a chance to read the Warrant Article. Easler said that the Article was already submitted. Abbe asked Niebling if he saw any reason it wouldn't pass. Niebling doesn't see any reason it wouldn't pass. Niebling asked if they thought it would be a problem with him presiding over this Warrant Article. Gilmore didn't think it would be an issue.

Niebling noted that the Town Forest has had many hiking visitors.

**New Business:**

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

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

Non-Public meeting via RSA 91a:3, II (d) at 7:26 pm A motion to go into non-public/closed session was made by??  
Seconded XX passed by a unanimous vote.

Back into Regular meeting at 7:36 pm b a motion from LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

A motion to Seal the Minutes was made by Abbe, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.

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

Motion to adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm was made by LaPierre, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting:**

- February 18, 2020