

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
December 15, 2020

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan, Henry Carrier, Ed Cherian Jr. and Brendon Jackson.

Absent: Norman LaPierre

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

Guest: Charlie Niebling, Town Forester

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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 7:08 pm
- Roll call done by Chair.
- Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of November 17, 2020 and the Non-Public Minutes of November 17, 2020. Regular Minutes: Line 42 'reseeded' needs to be changed to 'reset'. They would like it to read 'who removed and reset the two granite gate posts'. A **motion** to approve the Minutes was made by Gilmore, seconded by Cherian. Roll call vote: AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Cherian, Carrier, and Jackson. NAY: none. Motion carries. A **motion** to approve the November 2020 non-public Minute was made by Gilmore and seconded by Cousens. Roll call vote: AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Cherian, Carrier, and Jackson. NAY: none. Motion carries.
- Accountant's Report – No expenses were made against their Town Budget of \$2,200. The Town Forest Fund has a balance of \$27,230.93. Balance sheet for the Conservation Commission Fund shows \$223,868.33.

**Old Business:**

- Discussion Items Town Forests. Abbe reported. They are getting new interest in the Boscawen Village Town Forest. They have had volunteers for trail work. Abbe did a webinar yesterday with the Merrimack County Extension. There is a Nature Groupie Program. People from all over the northeast. There was 20 people total in the webinar. They reviewed some of the things that other Town Forest and other Land Trusts are using in order to gather trail workers. The Nature Groupie portion of the Extension has over 4,500 participants. So if Boscawen ran a program with them, they may get 60 or 70 people to show up from around the state. They emphasize keeping group's small; less than 8. They run a number of programs. Many trail coordinators were there. He would like to share the information from that Webinar when it is forwarded to him. Also April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day and the Commission could do something for that.

Niebling reported that the Creaser Farm was certified as a tree farm in years past. The signs on Lower Queen Street have been there all along. They may have to do a query with the Natural Resource Inventory to see if there were any plants that were endangered. It costs no money and if they recertify they can keep the tree farm. Gilmore wants to do that. Niebling will reach out to Tim Fleury to get the process of recertifying moving forward. Gilmore likes the new sign placed at the new Village Forest. Gilmore thanked Niebling for the signage. Abbe reached out and got the Plexiglas for the sign. Abbe thought they should get a 4x8 sheet of Lexan for \$178.00. With the many kiosks that they may put up, a 4x8 sheet that they could cut would be more beneficial. Mike Stacy will cut it. Gilmore agreed to the 4x8 sheet. Gilmore asked Niebling if they should certify the Weir Road Forest also. Niebling reported that it already is certified. It was done about 3 years ago. They are subject to recertification every 5 years. Abbe reported a lot of usage at the new trail head. Gilmore asked if they have any news about the survey. Niebling spoke with Web Stout a month and a half ago and Web thought he would be getting to it in early December. He hasn't heard from him since. Niebling thought it would be beneficial to wait until the Spring. Gilmore asked Easler to reach out to Web Stout again. Easler will send him an email. Cousens was worried that the utility company may take out some of the new town forest trees along the road side. Niebling didn't know anything about the utilities taking any of the trees out by the roadside. Abbe thought that there has been a big push to clear trees back from the poles to eliminate the outages. Cherian noted that they are taking whole trees down. Kaplan asked if the Conservation Commission had any discretion on that. Can the town negotiate what they take down? Easler stated that it was her understanding that it is by the property owner's permission. Kaplan asked if there was time to send a note out to people to let them know they can negotiate with Unutil about removing the big oak trees. Gilmore explained that the utility does have the right to take down the branches near the power lines. He thinks that there's not much the commission can do about it.

Gilmore wanted to thank Niebling and Abbe for their good work with the Boscawen Village Town Forest and the Original Town Forest. Abbe has written something up in the annual town report.

- Driveway Boscawen Village (Abbe) – Abbe spoke with Alan Hardy who asked him if the commission had any plans to plow the new parking area. He wasn't sure if they should. With the winters as they have been, he thinks they should leave it be and when the snowmobilers get in there they can knock down ruts made with a loader. He doesn't believe they will provide much winter time parking. Gilmore explained that the snowmobile club runs the groomer and it will knock down the banks. He doesn't believe they want it to be a snowmobile parking lot. It has occurred to Niebling that they were getting snow this week and it's time to move the guardrails. Abbe will tip them out of the way when they have enough snow for snowmobilers.

Gilmore contacted Brian Hotz regarding the Morrill Easement and he hasn't received anything back yet. As far as he knows it is all taken care of and all is done for that easement. He hasn't heard anything about the item discussed in non-public session as of yet.

Easler asked the commission if they would like to see plans for site plan review or subdivision before it went to the Planning Board so that they could weigh in on it. She usually gives the information to just the Chair. She thought perhaps that whole commission might like to get it to

review. It was agreed that the entire commission would get the information, not just the Chair. In January the NRI will be added into the master plan.

Starting next month Kearsten O'Brien will start to attend the meeting. Easler and O'Brien will be switching out to share the responsibilities. Gilmore said they may cancel some meetings.

Cousens asked if there were any news regarding Walker Pond. Gilmore reported no news. Easler said they haven't gotten any plans in on Walker Pond. Cherian explained that the Water Precinct could sell the land without going to the Planning Board. He would like to remind everyone that the Water Precinct has an annual meeting and they are always looking for someone to be on the Water Commission.

Carrier volunteered his time to work with Web Stout to blaze the lines in the new Town Forest.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm was made by Cousens and second Carrier. Roll call vote. AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Kaplan, Cherian, Carrier, and Gilmore. NAY: none. Motion passes.

**New Business:**

None.

**Next Meeting:**

- January 19, 2021

ACTIONS from December 15, 2020  
Conservation Commission Meeting

Easler:

Send an email to Web Stout regarding the survey of the new town forest.