



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Greenland • Greenland, NH 03840

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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 07, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Chair Chip Hussey, Bill Bilodeau, Laura Byergo, Joe Fredericks, Kevin Lucey, Nancy Zuba

Chair Hussey opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:04 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Trail Grant

Chair Hussey discussed the proposed location of the trail with the Board. Mr. Fredericks suggested the trail down to the brook be a “dead head” trail with a small clearing at the brook. He added it may be wise to do minimal trails with an option to extend at a later date (a loop trail, a trail to the brook, and a connection to the Cushman Way property). Chair Hussey gave the Board approximate costs: trail cutting - \$3,000; signage - \$5,000 to \$7,000 dependent on the sign.

Mrs. Byergo told the Board the original deadline was early January; after checking the website it's now March 07, 2014. She reviewed the grant application with members, pointing out that specific construction details are needed; Chair Hussey will help with those details. After further discussing trail locations, Mrs. Byergo felt it may not be done in time to meet the March 07 deadline. Mr. Fredericks suggested adding a second phase to the project at a later date in order to expedite the application process. Phase I would not cut through wetlands but would do a loop on Van Etten Drive, cut up to Cushman Way, down to the vernal pool and add a loop around that. The highlights would be red maple, fern swamp, white pines and a vernal pool. Also along the trails would be different habitats. Signage could be added along the trails describing highlights.

Chair Hussey thought the maximum construction cost would be in the \$5,000 range. There is a matching grant available through the Town. Mr. Lucey commented that Phase I is realistic. However, because this is the first trail system the Town is pursuing, it may make sense to spend money on the planning. He suggested using a consulting firm. Mr. Lucey's concern was the planning behind the trails might not be adequate enough to submit with the grant application. There might also be a concern about encroachment on sensitive areas of Thompson Brook. Mr. Fredericks suggested that the highlights of Phase I be listed as well as the fact that an additional phase is planned. Mrs. Byergo added that she included a tentative partnership with the Great Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited (a letter of support will be needed). Mr. Lucey reminded the Board there is a planning component available through the grant application.

To be done by the February meeting: Mr. Fredericks will contact Trout Unlimited for a letter of support; Mrs. Byergo will contact the Winnicut River Watershed Coalition for a letter of support. Mr. Lucey will

speak with Rachel Stevens at Great Bay regarding consulting, trail specs, etc. Chair Hussey will check with the Town Administrator regarding easements and right-of-ways.

There was additional discussion about the construction cost being estimated on the low side. Revised costs estimates: \$7,000 for construction, \$5,000 for consulting, \$1,000 for informational and signage, \$3,000 for evasive species control, and \$1,000 for contingencies. There will be no surveying costs involved; it was suggested that an engineer set up the GPS coordinates of the property involved; cost: approximately \$5,000. Mr. Lucey added that if wetlands are involved, they will have to be identified; that will require surveying. The brush cutter/brontosaurus is \$1,000 per day; it should only take three (3) days. Environmental permitting, if necessary, will add to the cost.

Mr. Lucey suggested that the Conservation Commission might want to apply for a planning grant. Mr. Fredericks felt progress needed to be shown. Mr. Lucey continued that it was going to require a great deal of dedicated work on the part of the Board. There were going to be historical and wetland issues vetted through the process. A construction budget couldn't be done without knowing the planning outcomes.

A site walk has been scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.; meet at the cul-de-sac on Cushman Way.

2. Public Hearing (Thursday, January 09, 2014): Proposed Ordinance Changes

Chair Hussey reminded the Board that the public hearing regarding proposed ordinance changes will be Thursday, January 09, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Fredericks felt that vernal pools were still not protected even though they are required to be delineated. He stated that the only thing that was done was to add a delineation. Mrs. Byergo, who was present at the Planning Board work session, and Chair Hussey, a member of the Planning Board, tried to explain the intent of the ordinance. Mrs. Byergo added that the addition of this article will help identify and catalog vernal pools in Town. A functions and values report will be required as part of the Subdivision and Site Plan Review Regulations. Mr. Lucey added that report can only be done on wetlands, and a vernal pool is not a wetland. There is no evaluation criteria for vernal pools. Maine has a protocol that evaluates value; Mr. Lucey was unsure of the criteria.

The proposed changes to the Conservation Open Space Subdivision ordinance were discussed. It was the feeling of the Board that based on the revisions there will be no other conservation subdivisions in Town because there are no incentives. Chair Hussey added that there will be further revisions including lot sizes based on soil types.

3. Reappointment: Joe Fredericks (Term Expires March 2014)

Mr. Fredericks is aware he needs to be reappointed by the Selectmen.

4. Town Report

Mrs. Zuba will write the article for Town Report which is due January 14, 2014.

5. Other Business

- Mrs. Byergo returned to the proposed ordinance changes. Mr. Fredericks stated that the ordinance is poorly drafted. There was further discussion about protecting vernal pools and how it should be written.

- Mrs. Zuba reviewed the Inspection Report done on November 09, 2013 at the Weeks Brick House.
- Mrs. Byergo told the Board that the sleeve protectors for the trees had arrived.
- Mrs. Byergo will be organizing the survey results.

6. Approval of Minutes: Tuesday, December 03, 2013

MOTION: *Mr. Fredericks moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday, December 03, 2013. Second – Mrs. Byergo; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

7. Adjournment

MOTION: *Mr. Fredericks moved to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Second – Chair Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, January 11, 2014 – 10:00 a.m., Cushman Way Cul-de-Sac
 Tuesday, February 04, 2014 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Tuesday, February 04, 2014