



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

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

Chair Hussey opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Meeting Decorum

Chair Hussey reviewed meeting decorum. Motions will need to be seconded before any discussion can take place. Once a vote is taken on a motion, the motion is closed.

2. Members Due for Reappointment

Members due for reappointment: B. Bilodeau, K. Lucey, L. Byergo, Chair Hussey; terms do not expire until March. Members seeking reappointment will need to meet with the Board of Selectmen.

3. Town Report

J. Fredericks will write the article for the Town Report.

4. Tide Mill Road Boat Launch

Chair Hussey stated that he had spoken to the Selectmen about the Conservation Commission's interest in the Tide Mill Road boat launch. They authorized the Conservation Commission to do a feasibility study for grants and what can be done with the boat launch.

MOTION: *J. Fredericks moved to authorize Chair Hussey to explore receiving grants to redo the Tide Mill Road boat launch. Second – L. Byergo*

DISCUSSION: Chair Hussey stated the possibility of grants and what could be done at the boat launch would be explored as well as any cost to the Town. K. Lucey stated there were no State grants available; on the federal level, grants for water access require public access and could not be restricted to Town residents. Chair Hussey added that if Town money was used, access could be restricted. He also mentioned that parking, which is limited, would have to be discussed with the Weeks property owners. J. Fredericks suggested the boat launch be done in conjunction with the construction of the new residence on that road.

The grant mentioned by K. Lucey is the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program. Last year, \$16.7 million was awarded. He continued with a brief description of the grant. Access points were discussed. K. Lucey stated that Portsmouth built a floating pier at Sagamore Creek Headlands; public access is behind the Seacoast Mental Health buildings. If you walk 200 yards in, there's a kayak launch. It would be similar to what the Conservation Commission was looking at, and suggested that they should have real costs. K. Lucey will research the information with Portsmouth. Chair Hussey will contact Eben Lewis, DES, for their recommendations. K. Lucey added that piers and floating docks may require approval by the Governor and Executive Council.

MOTION: *J. Fredericks moved to authorize Chair Hussey to explore receiving grants to redo the Tide Mill Boat Launch. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

5. Stormwater Management

Included in member's packets was the stormwater management model. Chair Hussey told members that it would be changing. The Planning Board requested that the Conservation Commission review the information. L. Byergo added that a UNH professor will be speaking at a Planning Board meeting. Chair Hussey added that all Boards as well as the Conservation Commission would be invited. L. Byergo said that at a workshop in January 2015, Dr. Houle, UNH, stated that towns could save money by adopting good stormwater ordinances. She suggested that while reading the model, members should be aware of those references.

6. Warrant Articles

Chair Hussey stated that the Town Administrator refused to present the CIP article from the Conservation Commission for the pedestrian bridge over the Winnicut River; he presented a petitioned warrant with 39 signatures. It was not recommended by the Board of Selectmen; however, it will be on the ballot. The cost of the project is \$500,000; the original cost was \$900,000. By eliminating the lighting, the cost dropped. The Town's portion would be \$125,000 or \$25,000 for the next five years.

Chair Hussey explained that DOT would like to see the footbridge come from Bayside Road, cross the Winnicut River on the old abutments, go under the bridge, exiting onto Rolston Park. The other option is to it on the upriver side, cross over and come into Rolston Park. This would also be a connector to the future trails. J. Fredericks suggested that any future design should take into consideration the possible widening of the bridge.

L. Byergo asked if there would be an opportunity for people to provide input. Chair Hussey responded that the Deliberative Session would be on Saturday, January 30, 2016. He added that a press release needed to be done no later than January 27. J. Fredericks stated the best way to educate people would be outside the polling station on voting day, especially since this is the first year the Town is an SB2. Chair Hussey explained the language used for the warrant article. J. Fredericks clarified that that a positive vote this year would allocate the amount of \$25,000 for the first year. It would not obligate the Town to build it; the Town would have to continue to allocate funds in future years. This would set aside funds for future plans for a pedestrian crossing.

MOTION: *Chair Hussey moved to expend \$100 to produce a bulletin about the pedestrian bridge to be given out on voting day. Second – J. Fredericks*

DISCUSSION: L. Byergo suggested doing another day at the Transfer Station to hand out information. J. Fredericks stated that research shows on ballot issues voters don't make up their minds until they walk in the door. Chair Hussey suggested a picture of the bridge with a 6" walking space.

MOTION: Chair Hussey moved to expend \$100 to produce a bulletin about the pedestrian bridge to be given out on voting day. Second – J. Fredericks; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

L. Byergo and Chair Hussey volunteered to write the hand-out.

7. Approval of Minutes: Thursday, November 12, 2015

MOTION: J. Fredericks moved to approve the minutes of Thursday, November 12, 2015. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

8. Approval of Invoice

MOTION: L. Byergo moved to approve payment of the invoice from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions in the amount of \$296. Second – J. Fredericks; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

9. Other Business

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, January 11, 2016, Chair Hussey was given a letter from the Department of Corrections offering the services of their inmate work crew. It was suggested that they may be able to help with the trails.

L. Byergo requested that a trail update be discussed at the February meeting. Chair Hussey stated that the surveying has not been done. L. Byergo submitted a list of questions to be discussed at the next meeting.

The next grant round for NH State Parks is in the spring. Chair Hussey told members funding was not available through the Town for trails.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Chair Hussey moved to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. Second - J. Fredericks; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Wednesday, February 10, 2016