



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Town of Greenland • Greenland, NH 03840
11 Town Square • PO Box 100
Phone: 603.431.3070 • Fax: 603.430.3761
Website: greenland-nh.com

MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Bill Bilodeau, Laura Byergo, Chip Hussey, Sarah Rowe

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

1. Reorganization of the Board

MOTION: S. Rowe nominated L. Byergo as Chair of the Conservation Commission. Second – C. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: C. Hussey nominated B. Bilodeau as Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. Update: Trails

Greg Jordan has contacted Chair Byergo. He has a quick path to cross the wettest part of the trail (from the dry section over the wet). A dozer will need to go through that part of the trail. Chair Byergo was unable to walk that part of the trail with G. Jordan for the GPS coordinates prior to the meeting. C. Hussey suggested flagging the trail. Chair Byergo was hoping to mark the trail without encroaching on the abutter's property; she felt there was enough dry land. Funds are available to place boardwalk on the trail where needed. Members were encouraged to walk the trail with Chair Byergo.

C. Hussey stated that Coastal Way has been surveyed and taped. They will need to find a way around that; it's much different than he anticipated. Chair Byergo added that the Building Inspector wanted to go out one more time to locate the Stratham line; she will flag that also. C. Hussey stated there are two places where they wanted to do non-descriptive paths using stepping stones: Coastal Way and Cushman Way. He will contact Lang's about a price.

Chair Byergo stated the Conservation Commission will try to make real progress during April and May.

3. Update: Van Etten Open Space

Chair Byergo attended a day long workshop on planting native meadows and the different types; she felt it may help with the Van Etten open space. Chair Byergo is trying to schedule a meeting with Joe Fedora and his neighbors to review some of the ideas from that workshop. The Board of Selectmen had agreed that the Conservation Commission could work with the Town's DPW to keep the area mowed and

invasives out. Chair Byergo was concerned about the bank that goes down to the trail—it will be tough to mow and something more aggressive may have to be done.

Dennis Malloy, Van Etten Drive: Asked if there was a management program for the large area that abuts Rt. 33, or if the plan was to mow it once a year. C. Hussey responded that through the DES permit, it's required to be mowed once a year; the mowing can be suspended and the area allowed to return to its natural state. Chair Byergo stated that the Conservation Commission would probably be very interested in developing a plan that is beneficial and helps expand the wildlife benefit, without taking responsibility. A wet meadow will take some effort, but may work. D. Malloy responded the HOA will be meeting and it could be discussed with them. Chair Byergo suggested he may want to bring their ideas to the Conservation Commission.

4. Database: Town Conservation Land, Field Notes App

S. Rowe distributed and reviewed the proposed database to members; a UNH website was used. The database will be used to identify and track conservation land in Town. The link would be available on cell phones and used when people were sent out to do an inspection. Information would be entered into a spreadsheet that can be exported and printed. Chair Byergo added the point was not just to track conservation easements that were the Town's responsibility, but to have a better idea of the protected land in Greenland as whole (Fish and Game, Town owned, or private land). It will also give the Town a better idea of the percentage in conservation and the location. Reports for the Selectmen can be generated very quickly, and the Conservation Commission will be able to update the NH Granite database.

S. Rowe explained how to access the link and that a shared drive will be created in the Cloud. Chair Byergo reminded members that the Selectmen have approved hiring an intern this summer to assist with the monitoring. Chair Byergo is reviewing several different reports done for Greenland over the last 10 years: open space, natural resource inventory, etc., that had recommendations for land that should be put into conservation or management plans for land in conservation. She plans to enter them into the database.

5. Spring Project Update: Labeling Storm Drains

Chair Byergo has received confirmation from the leader of the Portsmouth Boy Scout troop (Greenland Boy Scouts have been merged with Portsmouth due to size of the troop). He was very enthusiastic about the project and was more than happy to commit his troop to help label the storm drains. Chair Byergo suggested that a Conservation Commission member would need to meet with the Building Inspector, Property Maintenance Supervisor or Town Administrator to locate the storm drains. C. Hussey stated they were marked on the tax maps. Chair Byergo asked for a commitment from all members to label storm drains.

6. Proposal for Arbor Day Membership Drive

Chair Byergo stated that many trees came down during the last several storms. It would be nice to encourage residents to replant. She has checked with the NH State Forestry Nursery; a large number of saplings can be purchased for very little cost. On a spring day, not necessarily Arbor Day, saplings could be given out at the Transfer Station with care instructions and a pamphlet about the Conservation Commission as part of a membership drive. C. Hussey stated it needed to be done during warmer weather in order for the trees "to take". There was a discussion on which tree was best for this area and

what was available. S. Rowe suggested a few different varieties be given out; not to promote planting this year as much as to promote the Conservation Commission and what they do. It could become an annual event. This year could be started as a membership/volunteer drive. Chair Byergo suggested ordering a pack of 25 three year old White Spruce seedlings for \$25 as well as a pack of Crab Apple trees. For \$50 there would be 50 trees; C. Hussey suggested 100 trees. It was decided to order 200 trees (White Birch and Crab Apple); the total cost will be \$160.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to purchase trees not to exceed \$200, including shipping, to be given out at the Transfer Station to increase Conservation Commission awareness. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Trees will be given out on Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

7. Membership Advertisement

A membership advertisement was discussed. C. Hussey suggested a press release or Letter to the Editor rather than an advertisement.

8. Update: King Tide Markers

The King Tide markers were blown away in the recent storms. Chair Byergo is working with Larry Day for another location on the golf course. There was a foot differential between the Nor'easter storm surge and the King Tide. Chair Byergo suggested using a metal or aluminum stake.

9. Winnicut River

C. Hussey and B. Bilodeau were unable to do any work on the Winnicut River over the winter. C. Hussey doesn't think they'll be able to do anything until late June or early July due to life cycles. Chair Byergo reported that Rick Mauer would be happy to help. B. Bilodeau suggested using a makeshift raft. C. Hussey and B. Bilodeau will contact R. Mauer.

Chair Byergo has spoken to Melissa Paly, Piscataqua Waterkeeper, to see if CLF did water quality samples on Norton Brook, which flows into the Winnicut River. If they did, Chair Byergo would like to consider having water quality samples done on the Winnicut River for the PFOA's. C. Hussey stated that right now, the surface waters are Berry Brook. He added it wouldn't hurt to monitor the Winnicut. Chair Byergo will also contact NH Rivers Council that has the grant for the management plan.

10. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

11. Other Business

C. Hussey told members that the State had not received the report for the Weeks Walk. Chair Byergo wasn't sure a walk had been done.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

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| NEXT MEETING |
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Wednesday, May 09, 2018 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Wednesday, June 13, 2018