



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Members Present: Laura Byergo, Chip Hussey, Sarah Rowe

Members Absent: Bill Bilodeau

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. Update: Trail

Chair Byergo and Jim Marchese, Building Inspector, recently walked the perimeter of the two lots on Cushman Way and the trail. They have also identified the Stratham line, and most of the line between the Cushman lot and Coastal Way. On the far side of Coastal Way, they found the granite post between Coastal Way and Van Etten Drive. They haven't finished the final line along the road, through the woods and red maple swamp. Chair Byergo told Jane Grant, Meaghan Way, they were able to locate one boundary marker on her property; they couldn't find the other two. Chair Byergo and J. Marchese were able to connect the Grant's property to the Stratham line, which is on the other side of the brook. They are still doing work in that area.

Chair Byergo also went out with Greg Gordon, UNH Natural Resources expert and Rockingham County forester. J. Marchese, G. Gordon and Chair Byergo, have been able to move the trail from where it intersected with the Coastal Way property. G. Gordon has helped move the trail out of the "wet"; J. Marchese has helped move the trail off resident's property. Chair Byergo stated that because the survey work was done on the easement off Coastal Way that was given to the Town, the Conservation Commission is ready to walk the trail again. She would like the Conservation Commission to walk the trail and the abutter's walk it with them at a later date. Chair Byergo would also like a Selectman to walk the trail with them.

Chair Byergo has spoken to Dennis O'Neill, Portsmouth Boys Scouts. He told her that the Boys Scouts could help with bog bridges. Chair Byergo stated they may also be able to help with hand cutting the trail. If the portion of the trail at the dry point that needs to be bush-hogged could be done this summer, the Boys Scouts may be able to help with bog bridges in the fall.

Chair Byergo will give the Selectmen the plan for finishing the trail. There is money for supplies, but she'd like help with the labor. J. Marchese and Chair Byergo found a way to go around the wetland crossing up the hill on the east side of Coastal Way; there will still be a water crossing. She has asked Kevin look at it, and is reaching out to Stratham and Exeter for their thoughts on bridges rather than bog crossings. If it can't be crossed at the narrowest part with a bridge due to cost, G. Gordon thought the trail could go around the wetlands by going through the autumn olive. C. Hussey stated that was a

tough area to get around. Chair Byergo stated it shouldn't be difficult to get a wetlands permit; it would be a financing issue.

The warrant article should be used this year and the trail opened to the public. C. Hussey stated contractors would be needed rather than volunteers. Chair Byergo felt the bump ridges would be fine. C. Hussey continued that bridges with hand rails should be built by contractors. Chair Byergo pointed out and explained the trail to J. Grant; it shouldn't impact her property. There was a discussion about a hunter safety zone.

The Conservation Commission will walk the trail on Saturday, May 19, 2108 at 9:00 a.m.; the rain date will be Sunday, May 20, 2018. Brush-hogging will be done in August.

2. Update: Van Etten Open Space

Chair Byergo met with the abutters on Van Etten Drive. There are four abutters willing to help with maintenance. They will be helping Chair Byergo plant some of the remaining White Spruce trees and Crab Apple trees from the Conservation Commission project along the berm. There is a great deal of autumn olive growing, and she has some weed wrenches available to complete the project over the next several days.

3. Approval Needed: Signs, King Tide Markers

Chair Byergo updated members that Portsmouth Boy Scouts are happy to help with the storm drains. There are four different areas that the Conservation Commission needs to concentrate on. Chair Byergo suggested June 09 or 10, 2018 to work with the Boy Scouts.

4. Update: Willowbrook Avenue Culvert

C. Hussey reported that the permit for Willowbrook Avenue was approved using the concrete culvert. The application for the grant is still in process. He continued that Selectman Sanderson doesn't want the Conservation Commission to appeal the decision. C. Hussey stated he doesn't want to appeal it as long as the Selectmen are willing to agree the box culvert can be installed if Greenland receives the grant. Chair Byergo suggested discussing this with the Selectmen; the grant isn't announced until August or September. C. Hussey responded that the Selectmen are claiming there isn't time to put in the culvert, which is incorrect.

5. Adjournment

C. Hussey left the meeting.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Wednesday, June 13, 2018