



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, February 13, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Bill Bilodeau, Laura Byergo, Joe Fedora

Members Absent: Chip Hussey, Sarah Rowe

Chair Byergo opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:07 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; she announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

Chair Byergo stated that Richard Collins has submitted his request to be appointed to the Conservation Commission to the Board of Selectmen. There may be six members.

1. Task List

Chair Byergo distributed a “task list” to those present. A copy of the list is on file. Chair Byergo noted that two grants are available through the Rockingham County Conservation District: invasive species control is geared toward transfer stations and municipal working lands where invasive species might be spread easily. Another possibility is with Fish and Game: a small grant is available that provides support for mowing, brush clearing and maintenance of woodland clearing of municipal lands in the amount of \$4,000 per year and capped at \$10,000. If awarded the grant, there may be more money in the warrant to spend on plantings.

Chair Byergo reviewed the section “Other Projects/Ideas”. She discussed the larger idea of the culverts on Bayside Road which may be redone in the next few years. She would like the Commission to look at the culverts as well as speak to Amanda Stone and DES to find out if there are some that are really important for wildlife and drainage to Great Bay. Funding is available to upsize the culverts; Chair Byergo would like to get ahead of the game and try to help the Town do a more wildlife water quality friendly type of job on Bayside Road.

Fish and Game and The Nature Conservancy are working together to identify roads that are particularly hazardous to wildlife. Chair Byergo has contacted them to see if Rt. 33 has been considered part of the project. With all of the streams going under Rt. 33 to the Bay (Great Bog, the wildlife refuge and conservation land), there is a lot of wildlife that gets caught on Rt. 33. She asked for someone to follow up on that issue.

Chair Byergo has a meeting scheduled with Amanda Stone at UNH next week to review the wildlife focused maps. The maps presented to the Conservation Commission in January related to water quality and storm surge buffering, not to wildlife.

2. Planting Plans for Trail and Open Space Areas

The cost for seedlings was reviewed (on file). The price ranges from \$300 to \$500. Chair Byergo suggested improving two acres. Using warm season grasses would require approximately 10 lbs. per acre (\$300); wildflower seeds will be 1 lb. per acre (\$30); adding 50 perennial wildflower seedlings (\$110). Chair Byergo clarified that wildflower seedlings were actual plants rather than scattering seeds. A planting date and ground prep will need to be scheduled once seeds are purchased. Volunteers will also be needed. Chair Byergo explained the planting process and that watering will need to be done until the seedlings are 4" to 6" tall. Carol Pugh will need to be contacted to do the mowing on the other 7 acres.

Referring to the embankment, J. Fedora asked how much work needed to be done. There's a lot of brush in the area; would it be conducive to planting seeds. Chair Byergo was hoping that it would settle in over the winter. She'll go over to Van Etten Drive with C. Hussey to see if grading was possible; it would make it easier to mow. She didn't want to leave it until the brush was so high a brush hog had to be used again. A group of volunteers will be needed to do some ground prep. Lifting, moving, and hauling will be necessary.

Chair Byergo stated that a lot of brush has been cleared from the trail that has been left in huge piles, especially by the stream. A decision needs to be made to burn it, haul it away or let it die back. She suggested that over the summer, when it's dry, a vehicle might be able to get through and used to haul some of the brush away.

Timing for Van Etten Drive will be after May 16, 2019. Most of the warm season grasses and perennials can be planted any time as long as they're watered enough. It can be planned out over the summer, and there is some time between now and May to confirm the details.

Thompson Brook Trail: The last freeze out date is early to mid-May. Chair Byergo is going to contact Lew, but she thinks the bridge and boardwalk should be complete in May or June. The Van Etten Drive open space will probably be after Thompson Brook. She's hoping some of the volunteers will shift over to the open space project. If the date is set early enough, Chair Byergo may be able to get volunteers from the Conservation Research Natural Resource stewards. She normally only gets a few people from them, so felt they would have to rely on volunteers from Town. Dates need to be set for the Thompson Brook Trail boardwalk completion. Wood will need to be moved and permission granted by homeowners to access their property. Arrangements will need to be made with the Boy Scouts to work on the bog bridges; Chair Byergo has identified where they need to be built. A spring trail clean-up may also need to be done. Portions may also need to be reflagged.

Coastal Way Easement: Plantings in the easement needs to be determined, including privacy for the two houses. Native species can be planted along the easement to make it a very inviting location. B. Bilodeau asked if the Coastal Way easement was turning into a major access point to the trail. Chair Byergo responded it will not be a major access point; for the residents on Coastal Way it will be an access point.

Cushman Way Access: There are two dead trees on the Cushman Way access. The Conservation Commission has been asked to have them removed. "Hunters Beware" signs need to be up before the trail is opened. Two "right-of-way" signs need to be posted. Chair Byergo would like another "Thompson Brook Trail" sign to put up at the Liberty Hill trailhead.

Chair Byergo asked B. Bilodeau and J. Fedora if there was anything on the list they might want to do. The task list was continued to the March meeting for further discussion. Decisions will need to be made on who would volunteer for which task and what would be done/not done. J. Fedora will help build the boardwalk; Chair Byergo stated that would bridge/boardwalk project be a mandatory/"all hands on deck" for the Conservation Commission.

3. Seedling Decisions for Spring Community Outreach Event

Last year the nursery delivered seedlings to Rockingham County on May 03, 2018. The sooner the seedlings are ordered, picked up and into people's hands, the better for the seedlings. As soon as the Rockingham date is announced, the Community Outreach event could be scheduled. If the delivery is Saturday, May 04, 2019, the second Saturday is May 11, 2019.

The seedlings cost \$190 last year for 50 crabapples, 100 white spruces, 25 deciduous trees, and 25 wetland shrubs. Chair Byergo felt residents appreciated the variety and there was an education opportunity for discussion on the different types of trees. She didn't feel the white spruce was as popular and had the poorest survival rate. She suggested 25 red oaks, 25 red maples, 25 cranberries, 25 white pine, 4 packages of shrubs (each package contains 25) – winter survival package, native species package, songbird package and the wetlands package. The total seedlings will be 200 and cost \$215.

B. Bilodeau asked about the American Chestnut seedlings which will require more care. It was suggested that homeowner associations, the School and Town may want to take responsibility for that type of tree. L. Byergo will look into the Elm and Chestnut foundation.

The order must be placed before March 31, 2019 for a county pick up at no extra cost. After that date, orders have to be picked up in Boscawen or delivered at an additional cost.

MOTION: B. Bilodeau moved to purchase seedlings as recommended and listed. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, January 16, 2019. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

5. Approval of Receipts

There were no receipts to be approved. The lumber for the extension on the bridge was approximately \$690; the labor and lumber to complete the boardwalk on the bridge was an additional \$1,500. That was approved in last year's budget. The lumber is being stored behind the DPW.

6. Winnicut River Management Plan

B. Bilodeau was given a copy of the Winnicut River Management Plan by Chair Byergo; it can also be found online. It was created with the NH Rivers Council with a 319 Grant from DES. Stratham, Greenland and North Hampton were involved. Geosyntec was hired to review all of the water quality monitoring data and hydrological data for the fresh water portion of the river. Nutrient loading was also looked at as well as excess nitrogen and dissolved oxygen. It's a slow flowing river that comes out of wetlands. Having high levels of dissolved oxygen is natural to that type of river. If the dissolved oxygen

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

gets too low, it won't support aquatic life. A watershed map was included that indicates how different parts were looked at. Chair Byergo reviewed the report with members. It includes good information that the Conservation Commission should be aware of and is a major resource in Town other than Great Bay.

Structural stormwater BMP's were recommended in the report. There is a follow-up grant available through DES and the EPA. No one has done anything with it, and Chair Byergo suggested Greenland "could get a jump on it". There was a discussion on the Thompson Brook culvert.

B. Bilodeau will discuss the report further at the April meeting.

7. Other Business

Trail markers and tree markings were discussed. B. Bilodeau asked if the Conservation Commission was going to walk the Weeks property this year; Chair Byergo will set a date.

Chair Byergo sent J. Fedora and S. Rowe a guide to managing open spaces. The wildflower seed mix for Van Etten Drive was included. J. Fedora was also given a copy by Chair Byergo for review.

Portsmouth and Greenland have signed on for the Rail to Trail agreement. It should be moving forward. Greenland will be handling maintenance for their portion of the trail.

Chair Byergo explained the King Tide markers. There is a marker at the end of Tide Mill Road; it's a metal pole driven into the ground where the high tide normally comes in. There are markers on the pole that show where last year's King Tide hit; Chair Byergo has the documentation. Last year it was a laminated sign; this year it's a sign that still needs to be installed on the pole. There was a King Tide during the Blood Wolf Moon. The sign has been attached to the second pole which is located on the Portsmouth Country Club Golf Course on the opening to Great Bay. There are markings on the pole showing the regular tide. They want to document the high tide creeping up and where the King Tide hits. Is it different in Portsmouth and up the Winnicut River at Tide Mill Road? Chair Byergo explained that the posts have holes in them; the holes are a natural measurement system. There are normally two or three King Tide's a year plus storm surges. As a "strong maybe", J. Fedora will take care of the King Tide.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: B. Bilodeau moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: