



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Members Present: Laura Byergo, Chris Collins, Joe Fedora, Sarah Rowe

Members Absent: Bill Bilodeau, Chip Hussey

Chair Byergo opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:05 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 moved to continue the reorganization of the Board until the next meeting. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Chair Byergo stated that it would be very helpful if members let her know when they were unable to attend a meeting.

2. Welcome New Member: Rich Collins

Chair Byergo welcomed R. Collins as a new member. R. Collins stated that he was sworn in earlier in the day. He introduced himself to the Committee and gave them a brief summary of his interest in the Conservation Commission.

3. NH Fish & Game Small Grants Application: Laura Byergo

Chair Byergo located two small grants that might help the Conservation Commission expand on the funding received. One grant is a Rockingham County grant that focuses on municipal lands near the area of the town dump where a lot of material comes through, possibly infecting the town with invasive species. It would help towns do a better job of fighting invasive species in those places. The NH Fish & Game Department Small Grants program fits perfectly with the Van Etten Drive open space and trail projects. The Town would receive up to \$4,000 at a time (\$10,000 cap) to do brush clearing, mowing to maintain grasses and shrub lands, and more importantly, planting of warm season grasses. Sarah Rowe said she would review the grant application and work with Chair Byergo to write a draft application.

4. Planting Plans – Trail and Open Space Areas: Laura Byergo

Chair Byergo described the location of the proposed plantings to be done in late May. Wildflowers can be planted until September. Further discussion was continued to the next meeting.

5. Review Task List

Seedlings: Chair Byergo stated that the seedling list was approved at the February meeting; that order has been submitted. The order was scheduled to be picked up on Friday, May 03, 2019 from the Rockingham Conservation District. However, several Commission members could not be available to schedule the Seedling Give Away event for the following Saturday. If seedlings are picked up at the State nursery in Boscawen, they can be given out on Saturday, May 18, 2019 when more members could participate. Chair Byergo will change the pickup location to Boscawen. Planting information about the trees and different habitats will also be given to residents.

6. Memorial Day Parade: Sarah Rowe

S. Rowe suggested the Memorial Day Parade would be another opportunity for the Conservation Commission to be visible in the community. She wanted the Conservation Commission to show up everywhere in Town to grab resident's interest. She is going to check into handing out wildflower seeds during the parade. Chair Byergo stated the parade is a week after the seedling day. S. Rowe suggested handing out any remaining seedlings. A banner was also suggested as well as T-Shirts worn by members. A final decision will be made at the April meeting. After a discussion about a possible logo for the Commission, C. Collins said he would design one. This is also continued to the April meeting.

7. Winnicut River Management Plan: Bill Bilodeau

This item was continued to a future meeting.

8. King Tide Marker: Joe Fedora

J. Fedora reported that the high tide for the rest of the year doesn't drop below 8.19'. He asked if the high point was looked at for every calendar month. Chair Byergo responded that she would give him her stick that indicates last year's average high tide. There are pictures that show the high tide plus storm surge height. A spread sheet will be developed noting the date and storm points. Joe asked if should be monitoring any tides other than the highest projected tides. Chair Byergo suggested planning to record the major King Tides and then try to record major storm surges, especially on top of a King Tide. They were trying to take a normal high tide and pick out the 'big' ones to see how much higher they are than the normal high tide. The goal was to find the Town's vulnerability point. There are two different measurements in Town; another measuring stick may be needed at some point farther to the west of Great Bay, closer to the Discovery Center. S. Rowe stated there may be a marker on the Discovery Center's boardwalk. The King Tide is driven by the moon.

9. Approval of Minutes

Page three, Item 3: corrected to include 25 red maples and 25 cranberries.

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to approve the minutes as amended. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor.
MOTION CARRIED

10. Other Business

- Calling in to Meetings: Chair Byergo informed members that it was possible to call in to meetings.
- Getting Information to Residents: There was a discussion about getting information out to residents. Chair Byergo told members that a friend had discussed setting up a non-Town, Greenland-based organization with interest on conservation and environmental issues. It might be something the

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Conservation Commission would support; or there may be some overlap between the two. The person may also start it as a blog about things going on in Greenland. Exeter has a residents group, Sustainable Exeter. Several members of different Boards participate in the group.

- Culverts: Chair Byergo will reach out to DES about the Conservation Commission looking at all the culverts on Bayside Road. She had heard the Town will not be repairing Bayside Road this year; it might be done within the next couple of years. That will allow the Conservation Commission time to do some of their ground work this year. It may be a project for the fall after the trail is finished. Chair Byergo will get a copy of the Nature Conservancy's survey of the culverts in Town to members. The Nature Conservancy did a survey of the Town's culverts and rated them. The Conservation Commission could possibly apply for an ARM grant; Chair Byergo will include that information as well. C. Collins added that there is a Trout Unlimited employee in Concord who is a culvert expert. He also stated he would like to look at the culverts more closely.
- ARM Grant: Chair Byergo stated that the ARM Grant tends to deplete a fund bucket for a specific area and then move to another area of the State. She thought they may be working the Merrimack watershed this year; they may not fill their bucket for the seacoast until next year.
- Bio-Blitz: Chair Byergo showed an example of a bio-blitz public outreach event and suggested it might be an event the Conservation Commission could organize; the Town-owned conservation land would be a good location. Chair Byergo explained that funding was available and it would be a species identification scavenger hunt. S. Rowe suggested waiting until after the trail was finished and plan the scavenger hunt for next year; members were in agreement.
- Letter for Neighborhoods Abutting Open Space: Chair Byergo prepared an letter for residents on Cushman Way, Coastal Way and Van Etten Drive to remind them what the Conservation Commission had planned for the open space. It was suggested that the name "Thompson Brook Trail" be used in the letter for name recognition. Members reviewed the letter and made suggestions for revisions.
- Requests: Requests have been received from residents on Cushman Way and Coastal Way to plant a privacy screen and remove a tree on Town property on Coastal Way. Chair Byergo also received a request from a resident on Van Etten Drive who is interested donating money to the Town to have some plantings done; the resident will be at the April meeting.
- Right-of-Way Signs: Chair Byergo showed members the right-of-way signs; they need to be attached to something. One will be placed at the end of Cushman Way; another on Coastal Way; and one on Hillside Drive. J. Fedora suggested attaching the signs to metal stakes available at Lowe's or Tractor Supply.
- Groundwater Being Drawn by the Golf Course of New England: Chair Byergo received an informational packet from the Building Inspector regarding the amount of groundwater being drawn by the Golf Course of New England from the Winnicut River and surrounding groundwater. Chair Byergo stated it seemed to be well within the limits. It is available if members are interested.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: S. Rowe moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Second – C. Collins; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: 