



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Members Present: Bill Bilodeau, Laura Byergo, Joe Fedora, Chip Hussey

Members Absent: Rich Collins, Sarah Rowe

Also Present: Rick Hussey, Selectman

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

Reorganization of the Board was continued until the next meeting when there was a full Board.

2. Van Etten Drive Open Space: Laura Byergo

Barry Posternak, 18 Van Etten Drive, and Nancy Brown, 20 Van Etten Drive, were present. B. Posternak was present to discuss a possible donation and N. Brown supported that effort. His property faces the open space; Chair Byergo added it was on the bank at the end of Van Etten Drive where the trail will be starting. B. Posternak would like to make a landscaping donation to the Town for the space that would consist of four deciduous trees (possibly 10' to 12'); they would be native trees. The landscaping would also include a wildflower garden. They plan to bring in 18 to 20 yards of loam along the old campground road. Lang's Landscaping would be doing the work. N. Brown stated that if B. Posternak and Lang's Landscaping could work with the Conservation Commission, she would be in favor of the donation being made.

Chair Byergo stated there were several meetings where the Conservation Commission discussed what could be done in the open space; residents on Van Etten Drive were invited. The Conservation Commission would like to manage it as a meadow and have it be a higher habitat value meadow rather than open space that gradually gets taken over by autumn olive, multiflora rose, and other invasive species. The Town was willing to do some active management to reduce the invasive species and create a higher value habitat area, but not to make it a park or a big burden on the Town to manage. All work was done by volunteers unless grants were available or the Town gave them funds. If a donation was accepted, it had to fit into a plan that was consistent with the how the entire area was going to be treated. It should not end up being greater management for the Town or Conservation Commission.

Chair Byergo continued that when the Conservation Commission cleared the brush on the bank last fall, the adjacent tree leaves were also coming down and Rt. 33 could be seen. They won't know what will

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come back for at least one season. The Conservation Commission would like to do something that will make the bank more useful as a habitat and meadow area. Chair Byergo doesn't have a planting plan but will be meeting with Matt Tarr from UNH on April 22, 2019 for that area; she invited residents to that meeting. Chair Byergo stated that the Conservation Commission will be mowing every other year. A way to minimize invasive species is to cut down the woody shrubs; half of the area would be mowed one year and the other half the next year. The brush hogging was part of the mowing and the perimeter was mowed. Volunteers did a lot of work on the autumn olive and crabapple seedlings were planted; the point was to not have a lot of maintenance.

Chair Byergo stated that there is an existing problem: some abutters have installed plantings on Town property. The Selectmen will be sending a letter to residents on Coastal Way, Cushman Way and Van Etten Drive explaining that the Conservation Commission was managing the area and their plans for the trail. It will also remind residents that motorized vehicles, overnight camping, building and planting in the open space are not allowed. The issue of plantings on Town land was brought to the Selectmen; residents with plantings in the open space will be asked to remove them.

C. Hussey explained that there were two problems: one was trespassing with the plantings that have already been installed and that would be handled by the Selectmen, not Conservation. There will be a time limit of June 01, 2019 for the plantings to be removed. If the abutters wanted to move forward with a donation of new plants, he recommended they talk to the Building Inspector to get an aerial view of the best location for their proposed plantings. It could then be brought to the Conservation Commission so everyone would have a better understanding of the location. C. Hussey added he liked the concept but didn't understand where it would be done. Once Conservation is in agreement, they could make a recommendation to the Selectmen; the Selectmen would have the final say. C. Hussey recommended it be done sooner rather than later. If it's acceptable, the new proposed plantings may go forward.

Chair Byergo was in agreement that the Building Inspector would be able to help B. Posternak and then it could be brought to the Conservation Commission. She invited residents to join her when Matt Tarr, UNH, came down to look at the area for the open meadow. B. Posternak stated he would be doing the maintenance on the plantings, not the Town.

J. Fedora was also in agreement that the Building Inspector may be able to help B. Posternak. There was a discussion about the access road to the filter pond. C. Hussey noted there would need to be input from the HOA.

The meeting with M. Tarr is scheduled for Monday, April 22, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. They will meet at the bank on Van Etten Drive.

B. Posternak asked if the idea of the meadow was to encourage wildlife habitats. Chair Byergo responded it would be for birds, pollinators, butterflies, etc. She continued that open space is harder to find in New Hampshire. As a State, open space areas (like meadows) are very important for species diversity and preservation. She felt there would be support and funding from UNH to do a nice project rather than leaving it as open space that could get overrun by invasive plants. A landscaped area wouldn't work nor would they try to regenerate trees.

C. Hussey found the wildflower concept interesting. It wouldn't have to be mowed. Chair Byergo stated it would have to be mowed to keep the invasives out; the wildflowers were part of the pollinators. B.

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Posternak stated again that he would be happy to maintain the area. C. Hussey stated he should come up with a formal plan and check with the Building Inspector.

J. Fedora asked C. Hussey if there was any flexibility on the deadline date set by the Board of Selectmen for the removal of the abutters plantings installed on Town land. C. Hussey responded there was not; noting residents couldn't encroach on Town-owned land. After further discussion regarding the plantings on Town-owned land, C. Hussey stated they were welcome to attend a Selectmen's meeting and plead their case.

Responding to a question from R. Hussey, Chair Byergo stated that the trees and landscaping wouldn't ruin the area; the issue was being on Town property. There was flexibility; they weren't creating a landscape area where everything had to be perfect. The problem was encroachment. R. Hussey suggested they leave the trees where they are and not mow the area. He felt the Selectmen could revisit the issue at their meeting on Monday, April 29, 2019.

3. Date Change Needed

A date change was needed for the seedling give-away event. The original date was tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2019. Due to varying circumstances, Chair Byergo suggested Saturday, May 25, 2019 as the new seedling giving-away date. B. Bilodeau noted that was Memorial Day weekend. After further discussion, the date will be Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Chair Byergo asked for a volunteer to make sure the seedlings were picked up, the cards were attached to the seedlings, the tables set up, and posters were done. B. Bilodeau and J. Fedora graciously volunteered to work together.

4. Poster for Seedling Event

Chair Byergo will contact S. Rowe about the poster.

5. Trail Bridge and Boardwalk Work Date: Laura Byergo

Chair Byergo has been in contact with Lew Shelley. He has suggested Tuesday, June 04, 2019 as the date he will come to Greenland to do initial bridge prep work. The building will be done on Saturday, June 08, 2019. Chair Byergo asked for volunteers to work with L. Shelley on June 4th; she will be available. In addition to sawing on June 4th, L. Shelley will try to pre-position the extra posts in the water. On June 8th, the building will need to be finished. Wood will also need to be moved from Coastal Way to the bridges; Chair Byergo will contact Paul Hayden, Property Maintenance Supervisor. B. Bilodeau has spoken to members of the Vets and there has been a volunteer; more volunteers are needed.

6. Conservation Commission Logo: Rich Collins

R. Collins wasn't present to discuss the logo. Chair Byergo encouraged members check their email for the logo. Further discussion was continued to the May meeting.

7. Winnicut River Management Plan Information: Bill Bilodeau

B. Bilodeau reported on the Winnicut River Management Plan. The summary of the data indicates the aqua life is poor; however, swimming is good. B. Bilodeau commented that people may not be using canoes on the Winnicut River due to the trees that are down, which should be removed. He suggested

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that if people could canoe or kayak the Winnicut River, maybe more people would be interested. He also suggested a “launch point” at Rolston Park. If funds were available, a launch could be built there. Chair Byergo felt it was an interesting idea.

Chair Byergo indicated that the management plan showed problems with some of the culverts. B. Bilodeau added that there was a lot of information about water quality in various areas. One of the biggest problems was fertilizer; another was animal waste. The residents of Greenland have to be educated about what goes into the Winnicut River.

Chair Byergo suggested the CIP Committee review and consider the Winnicut River Management Plan. The NH Rivers Council, which oversees the Winnicut River Management Plan, has funds in the current 319 Grant available for demonstration projects. C. Hussey responded that the CIP Committee probably wouldn't specifically look at that report. There are roads impacting the Winnicut River that need to be repaved. Chair Byergo suggested an ARM Grant may be a possibility for partial funding to replace relevant culverts. There was a discussion about a boat access.

8. Update - Signs: Joe Fedora

Greenland Right-of-Way signs were put up at the end of Coastal Way, Cushman Way and Hillside Drive. The sign at Hillside Drive was put fairly close to the street so people would know where the access point was located. All signs can be seen from the paved area.

A sign and reflectors were also put on the King Tide post near the Weeks Trail. The next big dates for the King Tide are in the fall.

9. Memorial Day Parade: Sarah Rowe

The Memorial Day Parade discussion was continued to the May meeting.

10. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes was continued to the May meeting.

11. Other Business

New Member: Joseph Russell introduced himself to members. He will be going to the Board of Selectmen on Monday, April 29, 2019 for appointment to the Conservation Commission.

Street Sign: J. Fedora commented that near the trail head for the Thompson Brook Trail, there's a street sign for Liberty Hill Lane; it's tilted approximately 45°. He asked if P. Hayden could straighten the street sign. Chair Byergo will contact him; C. Hussey recommended going through the Town Administrator.

Hunters Signs: There has been no movement on the “hunters” signs; C. Hussey will take care of those signs.

No Dumping Signs: Chair Byergo will check on those signs.

Coastal Way Trail Entrance: C. Hussey stated the area needs to be cleaned up and gated; it's wide enough for a four wheeler. Chair Byergo responded there were going to be plantings in that area. Two

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posts with a chain across would be needed until the plantings are done. Screening also needs to be done; Chair Byergo will discuss this with M. Tarr.

Chip Hussey stated that he would like to have a plan in place for any plantings to be done the first weekend after the May meeting. A machine will need to be brought in to clean up the trail.

Van Etten Drive Bank: There was a discussion about re-grading the bank that's already being brush hogged. There's a big hole, a mound of dirt and boulders. Chair Byergo has spoken with someone who would clean up the area; they would have to be paid but it would make it easier to mow.

Fish and Game Grant: This is a small project grant to do warm season grasses and wildflower plantings. Chair Byergo suggested this grant could be used for plantings and then money from the warrant article could be used to move the dirt. If the bank was made easier to mow, there may be fewer problems in the future and it may not need to be brush hogged again.

There was a discussion about looking at the bank to discuss what could be done. C. Hussey stated that a small machine would be needed to repair the trail. He will contact Chair Byergo when he's available.

Bog Bridges: An Eagle Scout has contacted Chair Byergo about doing the smaller bog bridges and possibly some signs. He may also be able to do some signs identifying native plantings and vernal pools. Chair Byergo will work with the Boy Scouts about an Eagle Scout working on signage.

Regional Conservation Commission Meeting: There will be roundtable meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, in Hampton at 8:30 a.m.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: B. Bilodeau moved to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 08, 2019 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant

Approved: