



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 – 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. Approval of Minutes: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 and Wednesday, June 14, 2017

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, May 10, 2017. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: S. Rowe moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, June 14, 2017. Second – B. Bilodeau; three in favor, one abstain (C. Hussey); MOTION CARRIED

2. Other Business

Chair Byergo told members that at the Planning Board meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2017, they would be discussing Subdivision Regulations – Erosion and Sedimentation Control Standards.

3. Updates – Recent Site Walks with Fred Borman: Chair Byergo

Chair Byergo distributed notes of recent meetings she's attended. She added to the notes that she received a call from Trudy and Joe Fedora, who live on the circle at Van Etten Drive, asking about the 10 acres of open land. They abut that parcel and wanted to know what they could or could not do on that lot and did the Town have any plans. She advised them not to plant anything in case the land was mowed. Chair Byergo added that the Commission should check on any plans the Town may have for that open area. It was not given to the homeowner's association, is not part of the wet meadow or recreation area. It was given to the Town, and now it's growing over and looking like a meadow; autumn olive is growing there. A simple suggestion would be a mowing program for every couple of years so that it remains a meadow and to keep the invasives out. C. Hussey suggested it may be association property; Chair Byergo would like to confirm if it's Town or association. If it's association property, the Town won't get involved.

4. Trail Update

Chair Byergo did a trail walk with Shawn Case, the UNH Cooperative Extension intern who is doing mapping. C. Hussey was not available to walk the trail with them, so they were unable to map different options for where the trail might be moved. They did a GPS of where the trail is currently. The

Conservation Commission will receive that superimposed over a topographic contour map. C. Hussey stated that it's been a problem getting the homeowner's on Coastal Way together; Chair Byergo responded that the trail is no longer walkable. C. Hussey will be meeting with Troy Thibodeau on Friday to look at boundaries. Chair Byergo doesn't want another year to go by without dealing with the trail.

Chair Byergo also walked the trail with Fred Borman, a forester who is documenting Town forest lands. She assisted F. Borman to complete a survey on four different parcels, walking different areas. Packer Bog was discussed; F. Borman suggested the Town consider placing a conservation easement on Packer Bog so it can't be sold in the future. F. Borman will be sending Chair Byergo easement examples from the Town of Kingston. Packer Bog, with its location, type of habitat and connection with the Great Bog, should be protected.

F. Borman also has suggestions about Rolston Park; mainly, the ash trees may die from ash borers. Chair Byergo thought there may be an injection that could be used to protect them from the ash borer. She also suggested a tree that might help soak up some of the excess water (a maple, no willows).

F. Borman commented that it's a nice trail that shows a lot of diversity. The first part of the trail is late/early succession habitat. F. Borman pointed out some of the cedars, oak and grapevine that indicate rich habitat diversity. At the gravel pit area, F. Borman suggested contacting Matt Tarr, Cooperative Extension Statewide Wildlife Specialist. He looks at warblers, and that is a very good bird watching area. F. Borman felt the trail had very good potential as an educational trail and suggested a place for inexpensive signs to be used to point out the educational highlights of the trail; he thought M. Tarr could also offer some valuable suggestions on including that habitat on the trail.

5. Update: Winnicut River Management Plan

The Town Administrator has a draft of the management plan. It shows the assessment pollutant loads in the different portions of the Winnicut River. The consultant separated the upper reaches of the river where the water doesn't flow well, and did not consider the issue of low dissolved oxygen in that part of the river because it's so marshy. Ideas for best practices (best practices for structural stormwater and culverts, and policy guidelines) were included in the study. Chair Byergo noted that the comment period was over; the last date was June 26, 2017. The plan will eventually be on the NH Rivers Council website.

6. Correspondence

- The Conservation Commission was notified work is starting on 125 Ocean Road and erosion control measures will be in place.
- A letter was received from the resident at 217 Winnicut Road. The resident was told that the Greenland Conservation Committee hired people accessing her property to do water testing. The Town has participated in water quality testing for the last three or four years. Chair Byergo told members that when she was involved with testing they didn't inform residents; however, they generally weren't on anyone's property. If they were on private property, the homeowner was informed. C. Hussey stated that there are two locations on Winnicut Road that are on private property. The person claiming to be from DES didn't have any ID. He added that Conservation Commissions, NHDES and the Town of Greenland have no right to enter private property without permission unless there is just cause. Testing in the past has been done in the July, August, and September time period. He suggested a notice be sent to property owners once a year; Trout Unlimited always notified people when they would be out. Chair Byergo will speak with the Town

Administrator about the issue. C. Hussey will inform the Selectmen that this was not done through the Conservation Commission.

- The notification from NHDES regarding Blue Heron Trust was informational only. Chair Byergo will research the project further and report back to members.
- The Town of Greenland Vulnerability Assessment is on the Planning Board's agenda for Thursday, July 20, 2017. This is follow-up to the C-RiSe presentation given to Boards several months ago. Maps are available showing the projected sea rise level as it impacts the Town. This will be part of the Coastal Hazards chapter in the Master Plan. Chair Byergo reviewed recommendations found on page 24 of the Assessment (copy on file). Considering the implications of sea rise for the Town over the next few years, Chair Byergo encouraged members to attend the Planning Board meeting. If the Coastal Hazards chapter is included in the Master Plan, it will have some impact.

7. Other Business

When Chair Byergo met with the Board of Selectmen several months ago, Paul Sanderson had mentioned the possibility of bringing water down Breakfast Hill Road. He suggested that the Conservation Commission look at property the Town should consider protecting before the water line is run. C. Hussey responded that the water line is still in the preliminary stages and could cost between \$12 million and \$15 million. He had doubts that the taxpayers would want to put money towards purchasing conservation land. He continued that P. Sanderson wanted input from the Conservation Committee regarding zoning in that area, including open space. After discussion, C. Hussey recommended that the Conservation Commission suggest the Planning Board consider cluster zoning and no basement floors below the mean high water table unless there was a daylight drain for development along the Breakfast Hill Road corridor.

Chair Byergo felt those were interesting suggestions for the Conservation Commission as a whole. However, the only way to consider those was to know the current status of the cluster housing ordinance and have an ordinance that makes sense. C. Hussey stated there is no cluster housing zoning ordinance in Greenland; there is a Conservation Subdivision Ordinance that requires a minimum of 25 acres to take effect. There was a lengthy discussion about density and cluster housing. Cluster zoning and basement floors below the mean high water table will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

8. Membership

Chair Byergo asked for ideas to increase membership. She suggested holding an event.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Second – B. Bilodeau; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, August 09, 2017 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Wednesday, September 13, 2017