



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 09, 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 6:55 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; she announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Winnicut River: Cheri Paterson, NH Fish and Game

Cherie Paterson had a family emergency and was unable to attend. She was going to provide an update from Fish and Game regarding the fish ladder and the Winnicut River. Chair Byergo will try to reschedule for September.

2. Winnicut River Management Plan

Chair Byergo has heard from Michele Tremblay. The plan has not been finalized; they are looking for additional data. The Conservation Commission will be notified when the plan has been finalized. The Commission will be working with the NH Rivers Council on a public information program.

There was a discussion about removing some of the wood from the Winnicut River. B. Bilodeau suggested using a flat bottom boat and chain saw; sections of the trees could be cut and hauled to the river bank. Chair Byergo will speak to C. Paterson, Rick Mauer and Great Bay Trout Unlimited about doing this project in September with assistance from B. Bilodeau and C. Hussey. The discussion about beaver dams will be continued to a later date.

3. Trail Update

C. Hussey reported that the trail has been mowed and the trees that fell were removed. Chair Byergo was looking for a tree that was 12' to 16' long and 12" in radius. If the right tree can be located, R. Mauer will build a small bridge to cross part of the stream in Rolston Park. There was a discussion about how to connect trails. Chair Byergo suggested using a form similar to a neighboring town for monitoring reports of various trails. There will be a trail walk on Saturday, September 09, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., starting in the parking lot at Liberty Hill.

4. Membership Update

Various options for attracting new members were discussed. S. Rowe suggested outlining the Conservation Commission's goals for the next year. Organizations in Town will be approached about having a representative of the Conservation Commission set up a table for a membership drive at one of their functions. B. Bilodeau will discuss membership at a Vet's meeting, Chair Byergo will contact the

Women's Club and S. Rowe will get in touch with the Library. C. Hussey was asked to handle the Transfer Station on a Saturday morning. Further discussion was continued to the next meeting.

5. Van Etten Open Space

The Van Etten open space hasn't been confirmed as Town property. The parcel in question is at the end of Liberty Hill. Chair Byergo felt if it was Town open space, it would be useful for the Conservation Commission to approach the Selectmen about mowing that area to keep it as habitat and the invasives from growing in that area; there should be a Town policy for mowing. It would also reassure home owners abutting that section it will remain as it is now. If it was native species and grasses and maintained, it would be a good area for the red-tail hawk, rabbits, etc. C. Hussey will look at the area.

6. Breakfast Hill Road

Paul Sanderson, Selectman, has asked the Conservation Commission to look at the land on both sides of Breakfast Hill Road. Chair Byergo suggested there be a meeting with P. Sanderson and/or the Selectmen for their input. She continued that the Town-owned land near Coakley is part of the Conservation Management Plan, and suggested a monitoring walk be scheduled.

C. Hussey commented that P. Sanderson suggested the Conservation Commission purchase marsh land. He had concerns, personally and as a Selectman, spending Town money on marsh lands. He clarified that it included swamps, tidal marsh, etc.; nothing could be done in those areas without permitting. He wouldn't have a problem with a mix of uplands and marsh. Chair Byergo was in agreement, adding that in order to protect tidal marsh land, upland was needed for migration.

Returning to the Breakfast Hill Road issue, C. Hussey stated that the Town wasn't close to a solution to water contamination from the suspected Coakley Landfill. However, it is moving forward. Bringing water to Breakfast Hill Road will also bring development. Chair Byergo suggested the Conservation Commission be prepared and look at it in October: walk the area and do a monitoring report.

There was a brief discussion about development in Town and cluster housing. Also discussed was the Conservation Commission becoming involved in water quality testing. With the implementation of MS-4, the Town may want more people to take part in water testing responsibility. VRAP (Volunteer River Assessment Program) can provide support as well as do analysis; the Town would have to pay for their services. VRAP is a state-wide legitimate, well-credentialed and respected program. C. Hussey stated that budget season is approaching; they needed to get costs so members can decide if it should be included in the Conservation budget. Chair Byergo stated that time outside meetings would be required, but could increase the weight and credibility of the Conservation Commission; members would need to make a commitment.

7. Approval of Minutes: Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Chair Byergo stated she had clarifications to make in the minutes from the meeting on July 19, 2017. C. Hussey stated that what is said at the meeting stands as the record; a clarification is a clarification. A copy of Chair Byergo's proposed revisions is on file. Approval of minutes was continued to the next meeting.

8. Other Business

Chair Byergo read an email from M. Tremblay, President of the NH Rivers Council, regarding the Winnicut River Management Plan. They are planning workshops on low impact development and possibly innovative septic systems with Dana Truslow's firm. Chair Byergo explained the septic system that is currently being tested.

Chair Byergo met with Theresa Walker, Rockingham Planning Commission, regarding C-RiSe. A chapter for Greenland's Master Plan is being drafted. There will be a community outreach program held during the Planning Board's work session on Thursday, October 05, 2017, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center in the Discovery Center, 89 Depot Road. More information will be forthcoming. In addition to sea level rise, there will be a discussion on rain water flooding which impacts rivers and brooks. S. Rowe suggested also putting the word out on "Next Door" which is similar to a virtual neighborhood block party where people can post announcements, etc.

C. Hussey updated members on proposed road reconstruction on Willowbrook Avenue. A round concrete pipe is being proposed to replace the existing culvert, which is collapsing. He had told the Town Administrator that the Conservation Commission would like it replaced with a box culvert. Also discussed was the culvert replacement on Riverside Drive. Chair Byergo explained that the Town did the design and the replacement was going to be done as part of the improvements to Rolston Park; P. Sanderson said it was not on Town land but actually State land. C. Hussey responded that if the Town paid for the design, it should show that it's on State land. He will research for further information. Chair Byergo commented that the Rolston Park parking lot is eroding and will be expensive to repair.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: B. Bilodeau moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Wednesday, September 13, 2017