



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Laura Byergo, Chip Hussey, Sarah Rowe

Members Absent: Bill Bilodeau

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.

1. Other Business

Joseph Fedora, 23 Van Etten Drive: Was interested in the Conservation Commission, what they do and if he could assist in any way over time.

2. Trail Update

Chair Byergo walked the trail with Jim Marchese, Building Inspector, twice; the most recent was on Monday, January 12, 2018. On the initial walk with J. Marchese, they found the same markers C. Hussey had previously shown members; J. Marchese correlated the markers on the ground with the surveyor's report and identified specific property lines. They were able to locate where there was some encroachment on abutting property by the way the map was marked, and they were able to do additional flagging. The next time out they tried to walk the Stratham line starting at the eastern side off Spring Hill Road; they were able to find the two corner markings. Going west, they were quickly diverted when the line went across the big bog. They were unable to locate any other specific markers on that side of the property line. They then went in along the western side of the parcel through the end of Van Etten Drive, going west to Nantucket Place and east back to the bog. There were no markings indicating the Town boundary other than the stone wall, which ended before they reached the bog. J. Marchese will speak to the Selectmen and request that a better job be done in marking the Town line in that area and mark it as Town conservation land. C. Hussey stated it wasn't conservation land, but open space which allows the Selectmen to trade or sell with little to no notice. Chair Byergo suggested it be noted as Town of Greenland land since it did not have an easement and had not been specifically given to the Conservation Commission, per the RSA, which would give it additional protection. The Conservation Commission has taken some responsibility for the land, but it's still under the auspices of the Selectmen, which is limited protection.

On Wednesday, February 13, 2018, Chair Byergo walked the same area with Greg Jordan, UNH Cooperative Extension Forester, who knows wetlands. They were trying to "thread the needle" on where to lay the trail between wet and dry, looking for dry. They knew the further south towards Stratham, the wetter it was. There may be space between the private property and the vernal pool to thread a trail that wouldn't require as much boardwalk; that area was flagged in pink as an alternative.

On the section of the trail that will have to cross the gravel pit, G. Jordan is going to look at the contour and LiDAR maps to identify a straight line across the narrowest point. A boardwalk will be needed. The other alternative is to talk to the second home owner to see if he would give the Town a “little pinch” of an easement. That would allow the trail to be built up the hill. Chair Byergo noted there isn’t very much on his land.

Chair Byergo felt they had made some progress. C. Hussey stated the surveyor still hasn’t surveyed the right-of-way into Coastal. He suggested that it might be used for negotiating an easement. Chair Byergo added this is the last year of their three year non-lapsing warrant article funds and it should be used on the trails. She asked C. Hussey to provide a quote for equipment to clear the trail. C. Hussey reminded members that the roots would still need to be pulled or the autumn olive would grow back. Chair Byergo suggested it be done in the spring before plants started breaking dormancy. She will let G. Jordan know that the Conservation Commission would like to start in March. She’ll also contact J. Fedora when they’ll be walking the trail so he can join them.

3. Database: Town Conservation Land

S. Rowe stated that her computer crashed and she lost her backup. She will meet with Chair Byergo to start the database again.

4. Spring Project: Labeling Storm Drains

Chair Byergo has tried to contact Brian Fogarty, Boy Scouts, but has been unable to reach him. C. Hussey stated the project would also need to be coordinated with the Property Maintenance Supervisor; he needs to mark them for stormwater maintenance in the fall. Chair Byergo noted that they would be labeling drains going directly to the Winnicut River or the Bay, not all storm drains in Town. Chair Byergo explained how drains will be labeled. Involving the Boy Scouts is a way to get them connected to their town.

5. Climate Adaptation Chapter for Master Plan

The Planning Board reviewed the Climate Adaptation Chapter for the Master Plan and suggested additional revisions. A copy of the latest version was provided to members for their review.

6. Conservation Commission Photo for Town Report

The photo for the Town Report was done on Saturday, February 10; Chair Byergo thanked members for participating. The photo and report have been submitted to Amy Bauer.

7. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, January 10, 2018. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

8. Other Business

- McDonald’s Septic System: Replacement of the septic system at McDonald’s on Ocean Road and the lack of erosion control were discussed.

- Unitil Gas Line Project: The Conservation Commission was given a copy of the DES approval for the gas line project at 1407 Greenland Road. Chair Byergo was concerned that native species would be planted; within three years, the phragmites will have taken over.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: Wednesday, April 11, 2018