



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Chair Chip Hussey, Laura Byergo, Kevin Lucey

Members Absent: Bill Bilodeau, Joe Fredericks

Chair Hussey opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:09 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; he announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Reorganization of the Board

Reorganization of the Commission was continued until a full membership was present.

2. Appalachian Mountain Club: Kristofor Kebler, Trails Contract Supervisor

Kristofor Kebler, Trails Contract Supervisor for the Appalachian Mountain Club, addressed the Commission. Members were given a copy of the assessment proposal for review. K. Kebler also provided photos of other trails the AMC has built.

There is a short, steep section on the proposed trail that would require a stone or other type of staircase. Quarrying stone may be difficult on this trail; they haven't seen much stone while doing their walk arounds. A crib staircase built out of dimensional lumber may be necessary. The maps appear to be correct. K. Kebler stated that they couldn't get a GIS track of the road, and used his GPS to run it. ADA portions of the trail were discussed. L. Byergo voiced a concern about the "mushy" parts of the trail; K. Kebler responded that bog trenching has been included. In order to make that section ADA accessible, more of a boardwalk would have to be built. Chair Hussey stated that the developer was willing to cut the trails and use existing materials to build up the grade, but was unsure how much more he was willing to do.

K. Kebler explained the process for building the trails. The mini excavator that will be used is less than 10,000 lbs. When building a 5' wide trail, an excavator with a 5' wide blade will be used. Using this type of equipment prevents damage off the trail that would need to be repaired. The trail will be laid out, including appropriate drainage features, before any equipment is brought in. The information given to the Commission was not the final plan, but was a close visual representation of the trail.

K. Lucey viewed the next step as presenting the plan to abutters and other interested parties for their input. Chair Hussey stated that he had worked with the developer of Cushman Way to put in flat stone ledges to mark the pathway.

All trail materials are included in the cost of the project from AMC, with the exception of granite. The number of bog bridges can't be estimated until the project is started. The AMC standard for stone steps is 100 years. AMC does not typically use equipment to cut natural surface trails; equipment is only used when cutting ADA accessible trails. L. Byergo stated that they would need to keep abutters and other interested parties happy in order to have volunteers to help with trail maintenance in the future.

Chair Hussey will need to meet with the developers to get their commitment to the project, and then the Commission must put together a budget. K. Kebler suggested meeting after those things were done. The AMC proposal was inclusive, start to finish, without using a developer.

Digital files will be sent for the presentation to the Board of Selectmen as well as abutters and other interested parties.

K. Kepler concluded his portion of the meeting.

There was further discussion regarding the developers and their role in building the trails. K. Lucey voiced his concern about losing control and ownership of the idea, and suggested a cash payment to the developer. Chair Hussey didn't feel they would be open to "cash" because the developer could write-off the contracting expenses.

3. Approval of Minutes: Tuesday, February 11, 2015

Approval of the minutes was tabled until the April meeting.

4. Other Business

L. Byergo is planning to do an Arbor Day event at Rolston Park by the Winnicut River, and thought it may be a way to get people interested in planting trees. The event will be held either the Sunday, April 26, 2015 or Sunday, May 03, 2015, and asked the Conservation Commission for their support.

Presenting the trail proposal to the Board of Selectmen was discussed. It was suggested that they be added to the April agenda and include abutters. Chair Hussey suggested meeting with Stratham's Conservation Commission when more information was available. L. Byergo spoke with Rockingham Planning Commission earlier in the day. They have received funding for the larger trail mapping project, and plan to schedule a meeting to include area towns. Funding for building the trails was discussed; K. Lucey suggested submitting a grant to the Bureau of Trails.

The Conservation Commission has a budget of \$1,000. An invoice was received from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions in the amount of \$270.

MOTION: *L. Byergo moved to approve payment of the Conservation Commission membership dues. Second – K. Lucey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

L. Byergo submitted a request for reimbursement of expenses for the NH Watershed Conference in the amount of \$320.

MOTION: *Chair Hussey moved to pay the conference expenses in the amount of \$320 for L. Byergo to attend the NH Watershed Conference. Second – K. Lucey; two in favor, one abstain (L. Byergo). MOTION CARRIED*

The Saving Special Places 2015 conference was briefly discussed. Funds are available for any member wishing to attend.

MOTION: *K. Lucey moved to pay registration fees for Chair Hussey to attend the Saving Special Places 2015 conference. Second – L. Byergo; two in favor, one abstain (Chair Hussey). MOTION CARRIED*

5. Adjournment

MOTION: *Chair Hussey moved to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED*

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 08, 2015 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: April 08, 2015