



*Town of Weare
Conservation Commission*

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Commission Members:

Andy Fulton, Chairman
Steve Najjar, Vice Chairman
Sherry Burdick
Bill Bolton
Mike Camacho
Ray Lemay
Marc Phillips

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – February 9, 2022 FINAL MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Najjar, Ray Lemay, Mike Camacho, Sherry Burdick,

Absent: Andy Fulton, Bill Bolton, Marc Phillips

GUESTS: Town Administrator Naomi Bolton, Jeremy Turner

Vice Chairman Najjar called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm., welcomed those present to the February 9, 2022 Weare Conservation Commission meeting. Confirming his quorum in attendance, Mike Camacho, Ray Lemay, Vice Chairman Steve Najjar, and Sherry Burdick.

I. FORESTRY ITEMS:

Jeremy Turner, MTL Forester, presented his forestry management quarterly update.

1. Completed 2nd of 3rd phase of the town forest boundary maintenance program. This included repainting boundaries and updating new signs. Twenty miles completed another 10 more miles to go, Felch & Eastman Forest for this summer.

2. Poor Farm Boundary Dispute - FORECO reporting, not clear of the status.

Vice Chairman Najjar stated the final report was received this winter from Ron Klemarczyk. A letter drafted by Town Counsel and signed by Chairman Fulton was sent to Steve Caggiano. There was no response. At this point, Steve Caggiano can voluntarily sign a boundary agreement or hire his own surveyor and lawyer to bring this to court. Waiting on him.

3. Timber Sale on Tobey Hill is complete with net earnings of \$4500.00, \$1000.00 for final stumpage.

Vice Chairman Najjar stated the Commission had not expected a revenue for Toby Hill.

4. Eastman Plan - (expired management plans) conditionally approved.

5. GIS Project - Moving along, Vice Chairman Najjar working with Laura French on it.

Vice Chairman Najjar stated long term the database would tie back to the original parcels, with wetlands, boundaries, and harvested date. Laura French at MTL got it all straightened out for less than 20 hours at the regular rate. This map will be live, allowing people to turn on and off the layers on our website. For example, trails, rock walls, compartments and roads, etc. with a background of aerial photos and street maps. Archeological sites and endangered species will not be put on.

Jeremy Turner asked Vice Chairman Najjar if he saw the Story Map. Mike Camacho asked if it could be added to the GIS Mapping. Jeremy Turner replied yes, using the GIS as a base.

6. Felch Farm - (expired management plans) under agreement, due this summer.

Vice Chairman Najjar asked if a work schedule could be arranged before moving too far ahead with the plan. Jeremy Turner replied sure, Laura French is the project lead. Work dates to be set up.

7. Pollinator Habitat Annual Evaluation at Eastman Forest - backside meadow needs to be brush hogged or control burned.

Mike Camacho asked if a burn is better. Jeremy Turner replied yes, a burn is better.

Vice Chairman Najjar stated a burn would enhance grasses and forbs. Top kills vegetation and breaks down carbon. Still would have to follow up with herbicide for invasives. He asked Town Administrator Bolton if he is covered as a Town Burn Boss. To look into this with our insurance company.

Ray Lemay commented many contracts he looks at for his work burning is prohibited.

Vice Chairman Najjar suggested a masticator, skid steer mounted one would be cheaper. John Brown and Asplundh Tree were companies that offer this service. Jeremy Turner to get a price.

8. Boundary Maintenance, New Acquisitions - Poor Farm Annex County Lot, Hardwick and Barden Lot - proposing to maintain new boundaries, tree farm status and management planning. Poor Farm forestry plan expires this year. County lot could be included in the update. Jeremy Turner asked would this become part of Poor Farm Forest.

Vice Chairman Najjar responded yes, but need resolution for boundary dispute first. FSA needed for Hardwick and Barden properties ready for the March meeting. To be voted on after Town Forestry Warrant Article passes in March.

9. Barden Property - Jeremy Turner asked if this piece took priority over the expired Bartlett and Poor Farm planning.

Vice Chairman Najjar responded boundary maintenance is important. Provide FSAs for now. He requested a list of Forest Management Plans with expiration dates. Jeremy Turner responded he would do that.

10. Tobey Hill Property - younger hardwood stands, smaller diameter, opportunity for TSI, timber stand improvement, cutting smaller trees that interfere with vigorous trees, etc.

Vice Chairman Najjar replied at their next meeting they would prioritize and look at the budget, specifically, after the Town vote.

11. Timber Sale Activity, Eastman Property - proposing to create an entrance road at the northern access point from Route 114, just below Ruffled Road. No out of pocket, part of the timber sales would include the obligation for the road.

Vice Chairman Najjar and Sherry Burdick explained his proposed access point is near the Henniker town line. Ruffled Road is in Henniker.

Vice Chairman Najjar responded he would not be in favor of that entrance point because the area is loaded with vernal pools. Need to investigate to make an informed decision.

Jeremy Turner replied it is feasible with minimal impact. Vice Chairman Najjar reiterated his point when walking around there are many vernal pools.

Jeremy Turner responded it would provide a good access point for the public, capital improvement, as there is not one now for management. Vice Chairman Najjar asked Jeremy to contact DOT, line of sight for a permanent driveway.

12. Final Phase (3 of 3), last 10 miles of boundary lines - sign and paint.
13. GIS Project - for Laura French and Vice Chairman Najjar.

Vice Chairman Najjar stated it includes Town Forest and Conservation land. He authorized 20 hours at the hourly rate. Draft FSAs for the next meeting.

Mike Camacho commented he has seen some big placards up, they look nice.

Sherry Burdick asked if there would be more cutting in Felch Forest. Jeremy Turner stated Laura French is the lead and will contact the Commission with work dates.

II. FORESTRY ITEM ACTIONS:

1. Management Plan completed for Eastman. Mike Camacho moved, Ray Lemay seconded to finalize the draft version for the Eastman Forest Management Plan. Vice Chairman Najjar stated to amend the motion to approve the final version. **Mike Camacho amended his motion, Ray Lemay seconded to approve the final version.** Discussion: being none, **passed 4-0-0.**

2. Action Item: Vice Chairman Najjar suggested approval of up to 20 hours at the hourly rate for Laura French to finalize the GIS Project, FSA is complete. Map based on the GIS viewer posted to the Conservation website. **Mike Camacho moved, Sherry Burdick seconded to grant up to 20 hours of work at the hourly rate out of the Conservation Fund to continue work on the Town GIS Project.** Discussion: being none, **passed 4-0-0.**

Vice Chairman Najjar stated no need for an FSA. Jeremy Turner to return in May.

III. MINUTES:

December 8, 2021 Minutes: **Sherry Burdick moved, Mike Camacho seconded to accept the minutes of December 8th as written, passed 4-0-0.**

IV. PLANNING/ZONING BOARD: none

V. NHDES MAIL RECEIVED:

- 1.) Sullivan, 18 Old Town Road Weare, NH., Shoreland Permit Application, requesting more information, File #20203515, Tax Map 110-112, December 8, 2021

Commission Comments: none

- 2.) AMS Properties, LLC., Incomplete Forestry Statutory PBN, Tax Map 410-053, December 29, 2021
- 3.) AMS Properties, LLC., Incomplete Forestry Statutory PBN, Tax Map 410-053, NHDES File #2021-03839, January 12, 2022

Commission Comment: Forestry application may not be used for development of a subdivision. Need to check with DES, Vice Chairman Najjar to call and ask.

Vice Chairman Najjar mentioned other issues that need to be followed up on relating to wetlands that include TMS Diesel. Town Administrator Bolton commented on their second driveway that was not closed.

- 4.) Eversource Energy, Utility Statutory Permit by Notification, Weare ROW, January 11, 2022
- Commission Comments: none

VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

- PLC letter - Vice Chairman Najjar to email:
 - A.) 49 Winterberry Lane owner has dumped a pile of stumps, some small trees, a compost pile of leaves, small brush and a pile of culvert pipes onto the easement property.
 - B.) Chevy Hill, game cameras are not prohibited.
- American Tree - need to update plan to stay in system, Jeremy Turner to remove Tree Farm sign when in the Pioneer Tree Farm category.
- Forest Society - monitored 107 Quaker Street & 249 East Road, Jeremy Turner monitored Collins Landing
- Chase Park Application for a boat ramp- **Sherry Burdick moved, Ray Lemay seconded to authorize Vice Chair to sign the application.** Discussion: being none, **passed 4-0-0**

VII. NEXT MEETING

March 9, 2022 @ 7 PM.

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Sherry Burdick made a motion, Ray Lemay seconded to adjourn at 8:14 PM. Passed 4-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Karen Nelson

Karen Nelson transcribed from

TA Bolton notes & You Tube recording