



Town of Weare

Conservation Commission

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Conservation Commission

Andrew Fulton, Chairman

Stephen Najjar, Vice Chair

George Malette

Wendy Stevens

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – APRIL 11, 2013 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Andy Fulton.

Present: Steve Najjar, Vice Chair, Wendy J. Stevens, Secretary, George Malette and Jeff Jackson.

Guests: Town Forester Jeremy Turner

Jeremy gave a quarterly report. Currently the Felch Farm unit 3 harvest has been in full swing since his last report. It is about 80% complete with four to five weeks left of work time. As of March 15th, stumpage was 41,000 net. Jeremy did meet with Benji and looked at their clearing request which seemed reasonable. Steve requested that we email Dept. of Public Works to find out what the intention of the thinning of trees behind the dpw shed is and if there will be a net loss in forest. It was unclear if it was just to let in more light or if it was to bring in materials and expand the footprint.

The Bartlett timber harvest bid was awarded. The bid was for a 6 cut to length harvest where trees are merchandised at the stump and carried out through a forwarder. The winning bid was for High Tech Harvesting from Loudon with a payment of stumpage forecasted at \$15,000 which is a conservative estimate. The target harvest date is about a year from now. Jeremy mentioned there is quite a bit of work needed to be done in order to do a harvest in Bartlett. It is very stoney. Jeremy requested that we restrict access to the road, via gating, so that public vehicles do not destroy it and prevent harvesting. The burden is on High Tech Harvesting to pay for repairs to the road. There is heavy activity on the Class VI access road to Bartlett forest. Jeremy estimates 150 yards up the hill. There is no easement on this parcel. The 6 cut length harvest requires a smaller landing than a whole tree harvest. The harvester will have to do high sheeting to correct drainage issues. Steve asked about creating access near the forest sign but Jeremy said it would be tricky. Steve stated that he did not think a public road should be gated. Wendy mentioned perhaps signage would assist in decreasing damage and Jeremy agreed.

We'll be moving forward with the Woods Conservation Area FSA and all of the planning work will be done within this year with boundary work started this year and painting a year after historically.

Breed Brook management work involves preliminary reconnaissance of the boundaries due to a recent encroachment. Jeremy will get a handle on blazing, signing, gps'ing and painting the whole thing. Jeremy will look and see if there are flag lines or monuments set, but Jeremy feels this is beyond his ability and he will likely need a surveyor to get the difficult things put together. Andy noted if monuments were not set, that the commission would need to get in touch with the developer. If it is clear something the developer should have had done, he should honor that.

Steve made a motion to authorize up to \$4,000 to accomplish the Breed Brook boundary investigation, and once that is resolved, to accomplish the boundary maintenance. Steve clarified: If the pins are there, go ahead with \$2,200 invoice. If the pins aren't there, we need to work with town counsel, developer, etc, while Jeremy stands down. George seconded the motion. All were in favor.

GATES

Jeremy next brought up the topic of gates on the various properties that have been up for discussion. Jeremy asked what was the status regarding gates. Andy says yes on Felch, that Jeremy can move forward with installing a gate at Felch Farm. Andy asked the benefits of gates vs. rock barriers. Andy spoke to the land agent and access coordinator at NH Fish & Game, it didn't sound as though they were adverse to gating, road

repair, and cut us slack to allow us to reign things in at Ferrin Pond. Delane has been looking to them to help with getting in there with the stocking machine, as he can't effectively stock the pond. Jeremy will talk to Delane about getting a gate. Steve mentioned that Delane is not yet clear that he has control, but Andy says the land access coordinator is aware that the state has control regarding gating the access road to the pond. Wendy asked who was going to pay for the gate and stated the state should pay and that it is on their land. Steve responded that we were intending on paying for the gate and writing a real estate agreement. Andy summarized that at this time Jeremy is not to do anything regarding a gate until we get closer to the 2014 harvest.

Andy also noted that Eastman Conservation area needs a parking lot area. Signs are working appropriately at this time. Steve wants to draw up a parking lot, rock and gate plan and submit it to PLC and plan to expend funds next year. Steve told Jeremy to use the hourly rate to do a conceptual design. Steve made a motion to cut out 5 acres on Eastman wildlife opening, with the intent of burning it, keeping slash piles at least 50 feet from the boundaries as a courtesy to abutters, expending up to \$3,000 out of the town forest account. George seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Jeremy last mentioned Ferrin Pond and Poor Farm as 2014 harvests. Andy asked if Jeremy could send the quarterly report as a .pdf for the selectmen.

Jeremy said he did find Hemlock Woolly Adelgid while doing the Felch Farm Town Forest. He had discussions with the state entomologist Carl Lumbard that they did find some in south weare earlier this year. Andy summarized its just part of their march north. Jeremy added it has been found in all but three counties of the state. Jeremy said there is a high density of hemlock in Felch to make the community function as it should. They are cutting about half of the stocking. From a habitat standpoint, hemlock is very important in biodiversity, mainly for thermodynamics (cover). It also does not bring a lot of income from a harvest. Jeremy does not think we need to do anything rash or drastic.

Andy inquired about the Emerald Ash Borer. Jeremy noted that ash is 6% of the composition of the state's trees. Weare's composition is more than 6%, but still is negligible.

Jeremy said High Tech is in discussions with Kyle and the state about HWA (wooly) for transport. He talked today about the Em Ash Borer. For the borer, it involves quarantining the county. Jeremy can transport Ash within our county, which is not very useful. He has told the harvesters to leave any solid ash trees standing as they are.

Steve asked about a gate at Woods Family Forest. Andy mentioned posting signs from PLC exactly as had been posted at Eastman to let folks know what kind of access is allowed at Woods, and also to share a key with Weare Winter Wanderers. Jeremy said he would take a ride out there and see what kind of activities are out there.

Steve made a motion to approve the Forestry Services Agreement as written. George seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The March 15th minutes were reviewed. Change the call to order to 7:07 pm. On Item #9 laptop – on third line change conservation account to Conservation Fund. George made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13th as amended. Wendy seconded. Jeff abstained. Andy, Steve, Wendy, George in favor. The minutes were approved.

A lot line adjustment for Pereira/Ottery was reviewed without comment.

Andy shared the Dahlberg Land Services shoreland permit plan which addresses the glass removal at the town beach. It was reviewed without comment.

A drinking water source protection workshop was reviewed.

We received a notice of harvest from DRED of 140 acres in Weare/Deering of the Vincent State Forest.

Andy acknowledge Jeff Jackson as a full member and welcomed him to the commission.
March 18th Chevy Hill Forest baselines were reviewed.

Andy asked Jeff for the estimate for replacing the commission's laptop. Jeff presented an estimate printed from the hp web site that offered a laptop proposal that included a 5 year limited warranty. 8GB, 64 processor. Accidental replacement is an optional choice. Jeff will ask Tina or Naomi about utilizing the towns multiple license software of the Microsoft Office products. Andy will leave it to Jeff to make an arrangement since the \$2,000 has already been approved to be expended.

Andy likes the interactive map of the web site.

Wendy brought up the Wetherbee project and the fact that the property is now for sale. She asked for a reconsideration as the property abuts Breed Brook which abuts Zephaniah Breed Forest. Steve asked if the parcel was landlocked, as he saw it as two separate parcels. Wendy said it has about 500 feet of road frontage and that it could potentially be approved for development with a few zoning and/or adjustments. The costs of the project were reviewed. Steve is not bothered by the fact that the land is open and likely is a good habitat and would like to do a site walk. Barden was discussed. Steve put forth that there might not be a lot of funds outside of wcc available for Barden. Wendy asked if the entire conservation fund was going to be expended on Barden. Andy said we still do not have a potential piece of the puzzle for expenditures on Barden. Andy would like to get an updated status of the conservation fund to see if more than one project could be addressed, one vs. the other. Andy added it would benefit from hearing from the Russell Foundation and would like to inquire about the Banks project also. Wendy will get in touch with the Russell Foundation about doing a site walk on a weeknight at the Wetherbee property. Andy mentioned if all members are present, it should be posted as a meeting.

George made a motion to adjourn at 9:36 pm, Andy seconded, all were in favor.