



Town of Weare

Conservation Commission

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Conservation Commission

Andrew Fulton, Chairman
Stephen Najjar, Vice Chair
Wendy Stevens, Secretary
George Malette, Member
Jeff Jackson, Member
Chris Tuck, Member
Lisa Purington-Grolljahn, Member

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – JULY 9, 2014 FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Present: Wendy Stevens, George Malette, Jeff Jackson, and Lisa Purington-Grolljahn.

Guests: Dave Ward, Town Forester Jeremy Turner and Tom Jones, Land Protection Specialist, Piscataquog Land Conservancy.

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm by Secretary Wendy Stevens.

I. TOWN FORESTER UPDATE

Mr. Turner submitted a Management Progress Report. He stated he has completed the management plan for the Woods property and he is waiting for feedback. There are two gates at Eastman and one at the Woods property. The gates have DOT reflectors on them for safety. He stated that the Brookshire parcel is currently being reviewed for completion of boundary work and he is awaiting a proposal from Bob Todd of Land Use Consultants to assist with correcting the monuments. Mr. Turner submitted Mr. Todd's proposal. Mr. Turner added that 50% of the field work is complete on Poor Farm, he did reach out to a Owen Payeur to let him know that they will be doing some work in the area. He anticipates having that work done in early August, and will then be ready to open the competitive bidding.

Mr. Turner stated that he has an abutter who is in between the town lots on Jewett Rd., Martha Evans, and he is in the process of seeking access and that is causing a delay.

Mr. Turner has completed a full perambulation reconnaissance of the Woods parcel and they are finding the final line and when the land was conveyed to the town, the boundary was never put in. The 2257 foot line and the 745 foot line were never set in the subdivision process, so there is nothing there that they can find and it will require more survey work. Mr. Jackson asked what is flagged as unofficial? Mr. Turner clarified that his technician has put those notes in, and it states unofficial because there is no pin and pins need to be put in. Mr. Turner stated there is some archery stands set up and ATV trails near the 257 line, as well as trees being cut, and he is not sure if the activity is on town property or not. Mr. Turner will work on getting some quotes.

Mr. Turner stated regarding Chevy Hill, there are 7 properties in town, thousands of acres that have been evaluated and reviewed, most of which hasn't had much management history, and those dynamics call for management activities. Mr. Turner stated it is on the management schedule. Ms. Stevens asked Mr. Turner where the schedule was as she didn't see it in the 2009 Master Management Plan. Mr. Turner stated it is in the Chevy Hill Management Plan. He stated the harvest should be moved to 2015. Ms. Stevens asked about how plans were made in terms of the timber schedule. Mr. Turner stated the answers to planning are basically in the data, and when they spend weeks measuring and evaluating the resources, part of it is the timber, the economics. Silviculture is a science and art of growing trees. He stated they look at the trees, their age, health, quality, the stocking and once measured and the data is run, you get a picture of what you have currently. You can have stands that are high risk if they are large saw timber, if they are economically mature, at risk of losing value, blowing over, splitting or rotting, there are management guidelines for that as well. Like an overripe

tomato on your vine. Ms. Stevens asked why did he choose Chevy Hill, what was going on out there? Mr. Turner said the two or three stands out there are high priority to medium priority that says they are ready to cut. Mr. Jackson asked about Woods, and it says ready to cut in 2015, he asked if we were behind on that? Mr. Turner stated no, we are not behind, but he needs to plan and manage at the beginning of every year and set goals and make sure he is tending to the forests for proper management. Mr. Turner stated you have a rough period of around five years to target a harvest and so the schedule is flexible.

Mr. Turner asked about the harvest update for the web site. He stated that announcement looks fine and Ms. Stevens and Mr. Turner agreed that the Poor Farm notification will go up on the web site closer to when it is harvest ready.

Mr. Turner stated our tree farms (Felch, Eastman, Poor Farm, Ferrin Pond, Chevy Hill, Bartlett, Woods) are up for re-inspection, and the non-contiguous pieces have to have their own form, and he is working on the re-inspection and he needs to get it done before the end of the year.

Mr. Malette asked about the Eastman field clearing. Mr. Turner stated he has Adam Mock of Webster who is interested in completing the work, and it is just a matter of him scheduling it. Ms. Stevens asked if he was taking timber outside of the meadow? Mr. Turner stated he proposed that we integrate a small amount of cutting outside of the field area. There are some bigger pines around the field which will provide cash flow to Mr. Mock. He stated it will happen before leaf off.

Mr. Malette asked if there was an amount of money voted in by the citizens from the Town Forest money for the potential of buying additional town forest. Ms. Stevens noted the Warrant Article amount of \$100,000. He was wondering if Mr. Turner was aware of any parcels that he would be interested in and Mr. Turner made note of that.

Mr. Turner presented pictures of boundary issues of the Brookshire parcel.

II. Tom Jones, Land Protection Specialist, PLC

Mr. Jones stated he was ecstatic to be joining PLC, he is from North Carolina and has never experienced a NH winter. He has done a lot of conservancy work, and he is fascinated to see how it works in NH and how municipal authorities work with conservation. Mr. Jackson asked when he stated he has never seen municipal conservation commissions where towns are owning forests so he is very interested to see how this all works.

III. TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dave Ward approached the podium and shared a drafted mission statement, goals and tasks, trail/property possible use, groups, signage, printing, and web site. Mr. Ward stated he thinks a trail book should not be a book, it should be a web site. He stated one of the issues they talked about was crossing over public land and he stated he knows the snowmobile clubs have \$2 million dollar insurance policies, and he stated there is a possibility that we can piggy back onto that policy. He stated this came up regarding the old ATV trail that goes from Charlie Brown to Chris Bolton's trail, and as far as insurance goes, it is already in place because there is an active snowmobile trail on it. He stated he looked into the Right to Know law and he strongly believes subcommittee members should have a separate email addresses. He thought weare-trails.org was available and emails could be set up under that alias. Mr. Ward presented a schedule of costs and stated he has made several calls into costs of posts and aluminum signs. He has also looked into an RTP grant, which comes from a fuel tax charged on vehicles that don't go over the road, and it is too late for this year but he looks forward to obtaining grant funds. He stated RTP gave away \$800,000 this year. He would like to develop a rail trail as a logical choice. He would like to have a cross country trail going for the winter. Mr. Jackson asked if he was aware of the cross country trail in Eastman already that is groomed every year. Mr. Ward asked if there was parking. Mr. Malette stated there are four spaces atop the hill, and we are putting in a parking area on the other end.

Ms. Stevens acknowledged in the absence of the Chairman, we would have to wait to motion in a Trails

Subcommittee. It was agreed that Mr. Ward, Ms. Stevens and Mr. Jackson will get together before next month's meeting to work on the language.

Mr. Malette stated regarding Mr. Ward's financial outline, if he does come before the Conservation Commission to request money, it is good to state what is going to be the end result from the items. Mr. Malette recommended more detailed information on specific projects.

IV. FERRIN POND CLASSIFICATION

Ms. Stevens stated since the path to Ferrin Pond was declared footpath only by the Governor in the 1970's, she thinks that nobody has the right to open up or change the classification of the road, and that the Warrant Article should lapse. Mr. Jackson stated similar to Perkins Pond, if a road is not maintained for five years it becomes a non-maintained road and that this road has been blocked off for fifteen years, so the question is – what is it? Mr. Jackson stated there is a lot of history that goes into that road that may have people moving in one direction or another, and this road has been impassable for a number of years. Mr. Ward asked for background information regarding the trail and Mr. Jackson explained that Fish & Game was claiming the footpath was a Class VI road and there was a recommendation from Mr. Najjar to request permission from the Board of Selectmen to install a gate and make repairs to the footpath with a bulldozer. Ms. Purington-Groljahn mentioned alternative methods of reaching the pond and Ms. Stevens mentioned other paths, and stated she didn't think the Conservation Commission had the legal authority to go against the letter from the Governor. The conversation was tabled until next month.

V. BANKS UPDATE

Ms. Stevens stated she has a call into Brian Hotz and is awaiting a return call. Ms. Stevens mentioned that we should probably contact Marc Anderson as a courtesy since we are well into haying season and Mr. Anderson should be apprised of the fact that we are working on the easement and to continue his present operation. She added that soon it will be time to laydown winter fertilizers. The commission agreed that Marc Anderson should be contacted as a courtesy as he is actively haying the field. Ms. Stevens offered to contact Mr. Anderson. Mr. Purington-Groljahn added please check and be aware of wildlife, and to navigate areas where he might find wildlife. She added that him being a veterinarian it is likely that he is already aware.

VI. FLANDERS PARCEL REVIEW

Ms. Stevens asked where this parcel was located. Mr. Malette stated the parcel is on Rte. 77 where Woodbury Rd. meets Rt. 77 and it is part of the Eastman Conservation Area. It was noted that the field is mowed once a year in the fall as communicated to Mr. Flanders.

VII. PLANNING BOARD ITEMS

LLA, Boisvert, South Weare Mobile Home Park – Ms. Stevens updated the commission on the proceedings of the Planning Board meeting, and that they have not accepted the application as complete. Ms. Stevens stated she will look up the deed that requires an owner to allow public access from his parcel to the Hoit Mill parcel. Ms. Stevens added that the conversations on the Planning Board clearly indicated that the 22 acres was only approved for one house lot and it didn't appear that any subdividing was allowed due to a restriction Mr. Meany mentioned.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The June 11th minutes were reviewed. Mr. Malette had an edit to page 3, item #3, "Mr. Fulton responded just Brookshire." Mr. Malette it should say "just Hoit Mill." Mr. Malette made a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2014 as amended. Mr. Jackson seconded. Ms. Purington-Groljahn abstained. The motion passed 3-0-1.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Purington-Groljahn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm. Mr. Jackson seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy J. Stevens