



Town of Weare Conservation Commission

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Conservation Commission

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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – NOVEMBER 12, 2014 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Andy Fulton, Wendy Stevens, and Lisa Purington-Grolljahn.

Guests: Dave Ward

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fulton called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

II. **PLANNING BOARD ARTICLE DISCUSSION**

Chairman Fulton stated that Chairman Francisco of the Planning Board stated he was willing to come to the December meeting and explain proposed articles before they finalize their wording.

1. Article 28.10
2. Article 29.7.2.1

III. **DES ITEMS REVIEW**

There were four letters from DES cc'd of residents who had applied for septic issues but more information was needed. They were reviewed without comment.

1. Sheldon Septic application returned missing information, 6-62-62, Page Lane
2. Snow Septic application returned missing information, 411/291, 157 Deering Center Road
3. Archambault Septic application returned missing information, 408/157, Brown Ridge Road
4. Kosowicz Septic application returned missing information, 105/40, Winter Road

IV. **CHIPMUNK FALLS DISCUSSION**

Chairman Fulton stated that we had received a letter from the residents from Chipmunk Falls which included their desires to disallow any public access as well as literature from Attorney Mark Dunn which contained a situation purported by the residents as similar to the Chipmunk Falls situation. Laura from Mitchell Municipal Group can assess the letter and supporting information sent along to review legal precedent to see if the claim applies to us. Ms. Stevens made a motion to submit the paperwork to Laura from Mitchell Municipal Group and expend up to \$1500 to review the documentation. Ms. Purington-Grolljahn seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Fulton added that Mr. Jackson and Ms. Stevens met with the Fire Chief and Mr. Redmond and he would like to table the discussion until next month. Ms. Stevens and Ms. Purington-Grolljahn have visited the parcel and noted it was difficult to know where the boundaries were. Mr. Ward noted signage would be helpful. The parking lot was discussed, as there is parking signage shortly in Chipmunk Falls Dr. on the public way, with the cul-de-sac being maintained by the town. Chairman Fulton confirmed that it is part of the Craney Hill Conservation area. Mr. Ward asked if the board thought signage would help now. The board agreed they thought the issue should be resolved before signage was implemented.

V. **TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Ward stated they are still working on finalizing the Eastman Trails Development Plan and it should

be completed shortly. He stated Phase I is just the main logging road trail with a little turnaround on each end. He also mentioned the potential for grooming. Mr. Ward stated that parking for this year will be up high of Pine Hill Rd., and next year we will work on the lower parking lot. He stated we have some new volunteers for the group, and the friends/neighbors of Eastman have agreed to groom the trail once again. Chairman Fulton stated he walked there the first year that they groomed, and he stated it was nicely done. Mr. Ward asked if the grooming would be funded or not. Mr. Ward presented costs of \$24/hr for grooming via the Weare Winter Wanderers. Mr. Ward stated he may be able to get his groomer repaired. Ms. Stevens asked if the trail could be groomed the way it had in the past for this year until Mr. Ward could obtain the funding he mentioned for multi-use trails. Ms. Stevens will add in "or operators" to the line of permissioned groomers in the Eastman Trails Development Plan. Chairman Fulton stated in the past all they needed was permission without any funding commitments. A new level of plans with funding attached will take some convincing.

Mr. Ward stated of the volunteers for Eastman is the PLC monitor and they are requesting reporting twice a year on usage, as the Trails Subcommittee wants to get a feel for how much the trails are being utilized. Mr. Ward added they would like to add a trail to the meadow. Chairman Fulton stated there was an internal clearing. Mr. Ward stated they would want to access the gate, and they will want to get to the road to the gate to the road they used.

Ms. Purington-Grolljahn made a motion that the grooming will continue as it has in the past, and that permission is extended. Chairman Fulton stated PLC did not have a concern in the past with it. Mr. Ward was asked to contact PLC to let them know as a courtesy that we will be grooming the parcel as reminders are always good. Chairman Fulton added as a sidenote, that PLC will be attending the December meeting. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. Chairman Fulton clarified this is to extend the agreement from the past two years. The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Fulton asked about the by-laws, Ms. Stevens shared a copy and stated she hadn't heard back from the NH Municipal Association yet. Chairman Fulton stated we should wait until next month to approve them.

VI. **LAND ACQUISITION**

Ms. Stevens discussed last month's applicant Mr. Giovagnoli and talked about acquiring the lands in order to preserve the farm and also gain forestland. Ms. Stevens asked about an informal contact to see if the owners were open to conservation. Chairman Fulton stated it was acceptable to reach out, that informal contacts are very casual. Ms. Stevens pointed out the potential to preserve and manage forestland as well as preserve a farm which seems to benefit many.

VII. **WARRANT ARTICLES**

Ms. Stevens asked if we had done articles to expend funds next year, Chairman Fulton responded not yet. It was decided this would be done by the Dec. 10th meeting.

VIII. **INVOICES**

Invoices were reviewed. There was an invoice for next year's NHACC dues which will be placed into the budget. The Rob Todd invoices were reviewed for boundary work on Woods Family Forest. Chairman Fulton stated a prior authorization was for \$3,500 and the invoice came in for \$4,329.50. Ms. Stevens made a motion to pay the invoice in full from the Conservation Account. Ms. Purington-Grolljahn stated they went over by \$800+ and thought that was a very large overage. She asked if this was consistent? Chairman Fulton stated he had zero concerns with the management, oversight, or amount being billed. He added there are other surveyors and perhaps in the future estimates could be required from the Town Forester. Ms. Purington-Grolljahn seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

IX. Chairman Fulton stated there was a meeting tomorrow night regarding the Emerald Ash Borer, and he noted the Borer has been found in Weare.

X. **BROOKSHIRE PARCEL**

A proposal was shared by Todd Land Use Consultants, LLC, regarding encroachments on the Brookshire parcel. Several actions were stated in the proposal regarding marking boundaries with garden stakes and nails where residents have encroached on town property. Ms. Purington-Grolljahn made a motion to authorize the contract for Todd Land Use Consultants, LLC to establish the appropriate boundary markers. Ms. Stevens seconded. Ms. Purington-Grolljahn stated she would like to see the encroachment activity stop and thinks this will help. Ms. Purington-Grolljahn and Chairman Fulton were in favor with Ms. Stevens abstaining. The motion passed 2-0-1. Chairman Fulton added that the funds should come from the conservation fund.

XI. **RTP GRANT FUNDS**

Mr. Ward stated there is an RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant that would be available to us as a municipality for the construction and maintenance and maintenance equipment for trails, he added the deadline is very near. He added these funds are available for multi-use trails, and it is administered through DRED. He stated the amounts are \$5,000 - \$50,000. Mr. Ward stated there is a matching value of 20%, and it can include volunteer labor, non-monetary activities. He added it is not binding, that you can apply but don't have to accept the award. Chairman Fulton stated it sounds like something we should be doing. The commission noted that the Trails Subcommittee was intending to make a grant proposal application.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Stevens made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Ms. Purington-Grolljahn seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion was adjourned.

A true records,

Wendy J. Stevens