



Town of Weare
Conservation Commission
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Conservation Commission

Andrew Fulton, Chairman
Stephen Najjar, Vice-Chair
William Bolton
Lori Davis
Sherry Burdick
Michael Camacho

CONSERVATION COMMISSION FINAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2019

Present: Andrew Fulton, Steve Najjar, Michael Camacho, Sherry Burdick, Lori Davis, Frederick W. Hippler, Jon Osborne, Jan Snyder, Naomi Bolton.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

I. Joint Meeting with Board of Selectman

Mr. Hippler rose and spoke to the Commission about his feeling that there is a disconnect between the Boards. He stated that communication needs to be ignorant to responsibilities and included that he has never attended a Conservation Commission meeting before tonight. He also specified volunteers are truly appreciated in the roles they play within Town. The Chair at that point in time asserted that it is challenging when communication isn't clear, but expressed how happy it is to have this opportunity to speak to the Board of Selectman now and said he hopes a joint meeting can be done annually going forward. Mr. Hippler told the Commission that at the Finance Committee last night, it was mentioned the Town Attorney retainer will probably include time for the Conservation Commission and the plan will be to have a budget line for legal purposes. Mr. Najjar asked if the finance department going forward could identify the project to connect with an invoice; be project specific. Also, could the Commission have guidance on development of a contract. Mr. Hippler asked if there is a contract signed with forestry; did it go out to bid? The Chairman answered no. Mr. Najjar stated that the Commission consulted Laura the Town Attorney for the Collins Ledge project, and we will need her again Village Farm Harvest bid. The Chairman said more easements need to be looked at in Town. Ms. Bolton asked whether the contract was signed with Meadowsend. Mr. Najjar responded there was no authorization. Ms. Bolton asked if there are any financial issues and if there is an encumbrance, it always needs to be addressed with Beth Rouse, our Finance Director.

Mr. Najjar asked for clarification about how communication should be handled with the Finance Department going forward. The Chairman asked for the Year End expenditure(s). Ms. Bolton said that will be listed in the Town's Treasurer's report. The Chair asserted to Ms. Bolton that this Board has no idea what revenue is or expenditures analysis's are. Ms. Bolton responded that it would be a good idea to look back 4 years on what the committee has done and present it in a slide presentation so everyone can get a good understanding and be on the same level.

Ms. Bolton told the Board that \$205,230.14 is in the account as of January 2, 2019. She continued to speak, and expressed that the actual process on how this Commission will select a Forest Management company and how the contract will be devised needs to be clarified going forward. Mr. Hippler told the group he believes a dead minimum would be 5 year or a 7-year contract. Mr. Najjar explained that professional management services operate project by project; they get a request for a proposal, collect information, and make a bid. Mr. Hippler specified this type is professional service or preferred vendor rendered but he would still like to refresh what was written in 2007, and put a disclaimer on the bottom. Ms. Davis agreed and said a contract is needed with a little more clarity. Mr. Hippler expressed the Town definitely needs a professional harvester, no question. Mr. Hippler wanted to let everyone know his point of view has changed since talking to the Conservation Board. The Chair stated the group is all set with the Forestry portion of the evening, but questioned the easement at Cortland Estates. Ms. Bolton then read a letter from the attorney about the easements at Cortland. Mr. Najjar then responded by saying easements are only as good as the authority over the easement.

Ms. Davis requests that the Town council represent the Commission regarding the enforcements that need to be made for these easements. We need help from the Board of Selectman to figure out a game plan; there are rules, but there is no enforcement. Ms. Bolton explained that Laura will not be representative of the Board in place of the Conservation Commission, she can only represent the Town of Weare. She was asked her opinion, and easement has no enforceable conditions in this case. Ms. Burdick said to the group that the guidelines that the Planning Board are using regarding easements in Town need to be looked at. The Chairman explained that we need an understanding about the easements and a partnership with the Town. Ms. Bolton expressed the monuments to be set should be on some sort of checklist before anything is started. Chairman Fulton concluded that there is an appreciation of knowing both Boards have a responsibility to the Town in these situations. Mr. Hippler agreed and would like to assist the Conservation Commission in its efforts.

II. Review mail and invoices

- NHDES/Wetlands Bureau, etc. Correspondence: No correspondence
- Meadowsend Timberlands, Ltd. Pn. Bill dated 11-30-18: no comment
- NHDES letter requesting one individual to serve on the PRLAC committee: no comment
- American Tree Farm System – Certification of Weare Tree Farm good through 2024: no comment

III. Permit Notifications

Mr. Camacho told the group by limiting the smaller items with permits, the State can at least send some kind of notice to the Town; Encouraging positive feedback from municipality and the Conservation Commission.

III. NEXT MEETING:

- February 13, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Provencher

Transcribed from notes