

Town of Boscawen, NH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes - Final  
Tuesday, December 20, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norman LaPierre,

Absent: Alexandria Hudek, Lyman Cousens

Others Present: Rose Fife, Recording Secretary. Visitors: Stanley Balch, Weir Road, Paul Fisher, 25 Chadwick Hill Road, Jennifer Fisher

**Regular Business**

Meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:01 pm.

Roll call was done by the Chair.

Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of November 15, 2016 meeting. A **motion** to accept the Minutes was made by Norm LaPierre, seconded by Jeff Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

Accountant's Report. Chair Gilmore noted that there was a payout this month for the Keegan Conservation easement. A total of \$66,655.88 was paid out. Norm LaPierre asked how much the grant was paying. Tom Gilmore said around \$44,000 and there were expenses also. A survey and an appraisal was done by the town and they paid Five Rivers \$10,000 to manage the property, which was a one-time expense. A **motion** to accept the Accountant's report was made by Jeff Abbe, seconded by Tom Gilmore but not vote was taken.

Old Business: Jeff Abbe went to an Audubon Society educational session regarding Trail Finders, which is a website that shows trails in each town. The town could, with the City of Concord as they are co-administrators of the trails, submit all the trails in the town forest with their help so that a person could go to trailfinder.com and find where the hiking trails would be. Tom Gilmore asked if there were any cost. Jeff Abbe said no. They do take donations though. Jeff Abbe is still trying to facilitate a meeting with the City of Concord's Planner Beth Fenstermacher. Tom Gilmore asked if they noted snowmobile trails. Jeff Abbe said no. He showed the commission the information that he had obtained. A **motion** to designate the town forest administrator Jeff Abbe to coordinate with Concord and have the trails/town forest put on the trail finder's web site was made by Tom Gilmore, seconded by Norm LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Stan Balch asked if anyone was interested in putting a trail on the back "Barnard" property. It is a beautiful piece of property. It views Gunstock, Kearsarge, Pat's Peak and Rattlesnake Hill. Jeff Abbe would like to go out with Stan and hike the piece of property. Tom Gilmore said they had talked about having some logging done on the property. He felt a trail was a good idea. Norm LaPierre said there were snowmobile trails up there. Jeff Abbe said it was difficult logging that property. Tom Gilmore said that if a logger took on the job the Town wouldn't want to make any more than a \$4,500 net income from the job. Stan Balch said that there is a lot of hemlock there that the deer bed down in and it would be a shame to lose that. Tom Gilmore said there is a lot of clean up to be done on the Town Forest.

They would like to see the Planning Board include recreational trails within new subdivisions. Possibly an addendum to the subdivision regulations. Jeff Abbe asked if green space would be the same as recreation space.

Tom Gilmore noted that they are still waiting for an assessment on the Hardy property for the conservation easement. That was promised to the commission by the end of the year. Jeff Abbe said that the property abuts the Avaloch Farm. Tom Gilmore noted that the only other project that they have been discussing is the property on Walker Pond that was owned by the Water Precinct. The commission has asked if the town could purchase it for recreation. Tom Gilmore also noted that it's a narrow piece that goes down in and to the boat launch. Tom Gilmore said they had a meeting and asked for a price for the property. Paul Fisher showed the parcel to the commission on the map and how large the property was. Much discussion ensued. Tom Gilmore said that if they acquired the property they would look into what they could do for the boat launch, and recreation, etc. It's not a buildable piece of land. Paul Fisher plows the road and sometime Roger Sanborn also plows the road. Paul Fisher plows from the pump house in. Tom Gilmore said the town plows down to the pump house. Tom Gilmore asked where the snowmobile trail went through. Norm LaPierre explained. Tom Gilmore said they did have some money they are willing to spend on these things. Paul Fisher asked if the State weighed in at all on the boat launch access. Tom Gilmore wasn't sure. Tom Gilmore said if the town bought the piece of property they would own the pump house. Paul Fisher said there is a lot of potential down there.

A **motion** to adjourn at 7:35 pm was made by Tom Gilmore, seconded by Norm LaPierre and no action was taken.

Jeff Abbe stated that they are working with the City of Concord to improve the trailhead maps. They have been going through Avitar and they have helped with some mapping. Currently the maps are out dated. He showed the visitors the City's map. The town is trying to get their map on paper so that they can insert it into the current trail head information pamphlet.

Alan Hardy arrived at 7:37 pm. In last year's budget there was \$450 set aside for dues and fees. They went over budget on that one thing. He suggests reorganizing the budget and suggest taking the dues and fees up to \$600.00. The expenditure was \$566. The supplies and fees bring down to \$100.00. Tom Gilmore told Alan to go ahead and make those changes. Alan Hardy will redo the budget.

Tom Gilmore mentioned that they can't sell the two piece of properties abutting the town forest and feels he should speak with the abutter regarding that. Alan Hardy asked if they wanted to proceed with the merger. A **motion** that as they cannot divest the properties they will proceed with the consolidation of the properties into a single lot was made by Tom Gilmore, seconded by Norm LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Tom Gilmore also let Alan Hardy know that they discussed the Walker Pond property purchase. Alan Hardy said they are trying to come up with a price. Alan Hardy said it's very wet property. Tom Gilmore asked if it included the boat launch area. Alan Hardy said that if the commission acquires it they need to decide what to do with the building and they would own the parking lot. Tom Gilmore asked about the town's liability. Alan Hardy said they would talk with Primex, the town's liability insurance carrier.

Jeff Abbe asked about the annual report. He was asked by Nicole to write something for the annual report. He questioned what he could or could not put in. Tom Gilmore said that the commissions accomplishments should be listed i.e. Keegan property easement. Jeff Abbe asked about consolidation of town forest property. Tom Gilmore thought that should also be mentioned as it is in progress. Alan Hardy said he did speak with Adam Mock about logging the town forest. Adam Mock would like to walk it with someone. Tom Gilmore said Adam could contact him or Jeff Abbe. Tom Gilmore said that the income would go into the town forest account. Alan Hardy said that if the revenue from the logging job was too much, the rest would go into the town's account. He suggested that they restrict the cuts to the amount of money the commission could take in. Alan Hardy said that

99 April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> is the calendar year for logging jobs. They would be reporting the status of the town forest  
100 account December 31<sup>st</sup>. Norm LaPierre asked if they had to hire a Forester to oversee the cut. Alan Hardy said  
101 that it was a good idea. Discussion ensued regarding whether to hire a Forester or not. A management plan costs  
102 quite a bit. Norm LaPierre asked about the County Forester. Alan Hardy said it would be nice if that Forester  
103 were allowed to help conservation commissions for towns in the county.

104  
105 Jeff Abbe asked if there were other subjects he could use for the annual report. Tom Gilmore thought it would  
106 be best not to address any pending conservation easements or the possible purchase of the Walker Pond property.  
107 Alan Hardy suggested that he put his thoughts together and circulate it to the other commissioners. Tom Gilmore  
108 asked when it was due. Alan Hardy said they had January to work on it. Norm LaPierre asked if there were any  
109 old town reports for him to review for ideas.

110  
111 A motion to adjourn was made by 7:56 pm.

112  
113 The meeting reopened to vote on the meeting dates. A **motion** to accept the meeting dates for 2017 was made by  
114 Tom Gilmore, seconded by Norm LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

115  
116 A motion to adjourn at 7:55 was made.

117  
118 **Next Meeting:** January 17, 2017 at 7pm.

119  
120 *Respectfully submitted,*  
121 *Rose Fife*  
122