

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
January 19, 2021
Minutes

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Lyman Cousens, Mark Kaplan, Henry Carrier, and Ed Cherian Jr.

Absent: Norman LaPierre, Brendon Jackson

Staff Present: Kearsten O'Brien, Planning & Community Development Assistant and Rose Fife, Recording Secretary.

Guest: none

Due to the Covid-19/Corona Virus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency 17 Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Board was authorized to meet electronically.

Regular Business:

- Open by Chair 7:03 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Accountant's Report – Forest Fund has \$27,232.55. Conservation Commission Fund has \$239,794.11.

Old Business:

Gilmore reported that they are moving forward with the Morrill Easement. Grants from LChip and NRCS for this as well as funds from the CC.

- Discussion Items Town Forests – Abbe is working with a resident, Pete Edwards, who is doing some GPS work for them. He has sent information to Avitar. More to come at the next meeting. He would like help with new trail names for the new town forest. He'd like to stay away from naming trails for people other than Knowlton Hill or Knowlton Hill Loop. Possibly name them after wildlife. He'd like to have the names so he can get signage ready to install for summer time. The old skid roads will make fantastic trails. There are a few places where they could diverge a little bit and build some relationship with neighboring landowners. Gilmore suggests if he needs to find out who the land owners are, and reach out to the landowners and see if they can open up the snowmobile trail into a walking trail. There is an app that you can download to your phone that shows property owners, property lines, trails, etc. Cherian gave a quick overview of the app. There is a reporting of an old charcoal kiln on the town property.

Gilmore asked if the issues were resolved with the encroachment on the driveways. Cherian said no, not yet. O'Brien said they spoke with Web Stout, the Surveyor, last week and he still has it on his agenda to take care of the surveying of this property. Carrier suggested they search for a new surveyor if the one they are using is going to retire.

Abbe wanted to present a 'Hookeroon' to Charlie Niebling for all the good help he has given the Commission and also to celebrate the award Charlie received from the Tree Farmer's Association.

Abbe reported that on 12.23.21 he and Niebling walked the Village Forest and are now recertified as a Tree Farm. Tim Fleury sent them a copy of the draft paperwork and it is being processed.

Gilmore thought they should meet, just a few of them, to come up with names for the Town Forest pathways.

- Driveway Boscawen Village (Abbe) – see above.

Cousens asked if there was anything new on Walker Pond. Gilmore reported nothing new.

Cherian reported that the Town is going to try to hold an in person Town Meeting with certain considerations in place. i.e. masks, social distancing, sanitizer, etc. Town Meeting is March 9, 2021. Cherian noted that the Water Precinct meets right around that time. Kaplan wasn't sure if his home was in the precinct or not. Cherian suggested checking with Lori Carey or Kellee Easler to see if he could find out if he is in the precinct.

Kaplan would like to start to work on a communication plan from the NRI to landowners who have significant holdings in the highest valued land. This should be done with care. He'd like to let people know that this research has been done and that the Commission could extend the information to them. He will work with Abbe regarding this and bring something back to the Commission to view within a meeting or two. They can create a one page summary with maybe the map attached as a handout. Abbe explained that they are primarily looking at the wildlife corridor. Kaplan asked if they had a connection with someone at the Webster Conservation Commission. Gilmore thought that it was a good idea to make that connection. Cherian suggested that they speak with Roger Sanborn as he knows a lot of landowners in Webster, as he owns many acres in Webster. Perhaps he would be a good resource. Kaplan suggested he and Abbe go and speak with Roger Sanborn. Abbe suggested they draft a rough letter and discuss it first. Kaplan will discuss this with Abbe this week.

Gilmore noted that Abbe did the write up for the town report and submitted it. Abbe had a question regarding something he wrote. He put Kearsten O'Brien's name down as a contact for citizens interested in being part of a trail crew or trail committee. He'd like to eliminate her name. He wasn't sure who to designate as a contact. Gilmore suggested they publish something on the town website.

Approval of the Minutes from December 15, 2020. A **motion** to accept the Minutes as presented was made by Gilmore, seconded by Abbe. Roll call Vote: AYE: Abbe, Cousens, Cherian, Carrier, Kaplan, Gilmore. NAY: none. Motion carries.

Abbe would like to reach out to Norm LaPierre and Brandon Jackson to see where their interest lies currently. Abbe will contact Norm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

New Business:

Next Meeting: • February 16, 2021

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*