

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
February 23, 2021  
Final Minutes

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

Absent: Brendon Jackson

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

Guest: Charlie Niebling

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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 at 7:00 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Accountant's Report – Town Forest Fund has \$27,234.06 in it. Conservation Commission Fund has \$239,818.55.

**Old Business:**

- Discussion Items Town Forests – this item was discussed at the end of the meeting.
- Morrill Easement – Tom reported the contract is moving forward.

**New Business:**

- Volunteers – Primex Requirements Review – Easler reported on this item. The insurance company (Primex) needs to know when volunteers come into the town forest to work or volunteer. This is a requirement from Primex. The Select Board would like to have volunteers appointed. The volunteers/workers would need to sign an agreement. Anyone under age 18 needs to have parental permission. PPE would need to be on hand when they are working/volunteering. The town has a First Aid kit available to use.
- Trail Work Volunteers – see above.
- Niebling Woodlot Walk – Scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>. Niebling reported that the terrain starts out gentle in the beginning. Kaplan reported that the view once you reach the top is spectacular. Abbe is hoping to have beverages at the end of the trail walk.

Gilmore reported that the Marshall property sold. He'd like to suggest that they speak to the new owners as it is extremely desirable to have a walking snowmobile trail from the Boscawen Village Town Forest down to the river. The snowmobile club put a lot of effort into getting permission to cross Route 4. He would like a letter sent to the Planning Board to find a way to have a 10 foot wide walking path across their property down to Route 4. Easler explained that it's not the privy of the Planning Board to make that suggestion. The snowmobile club and land owner should discuss it. Gilmore would like to have a conversation with the developer and have the Conservation Commission recognize the value of this

CC FM 2.23.21

corridor and compose a letter and send it to the Planning Board and suggest that the value of a walking corridor in that area would be desirable. Easler asked Hardy if the Planning Board had already discussed this. Hardy explained that the Planning Board can accept a letter from the Conservation Commission with the suggestion. He believes a walking trail/snowmobile trail will be a difficult concept to promote. Cherian suggested that the snowmobile club could contact the state trails coordinator. They have been credited with working with landowners to obtain sled trail access. Gilmore reported that the snowmobile club has a meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He will discuss it with them. A **motion** to send a letter to the Planning Board suggesting that the value of a walking corridor in that area would be desirable was made by Cousens and seconded by Abbe. Roll Call Vote: Abbe AYE, Cousens AYE, Kaplan AYE, LaPierre AYE, Cherian AYE, Carrier AYE. Kaplan supports the use of snowmobiles but wants to be sure they do this from a CC aspect and is conservation based. Motion carries.

Easler explained that it was a 2 lot subdivision. Once that is officially submitted, part of their Land Development Regulations state that conservation needs input and it's an opportunity for the Commission to speak. Gilmore felt they need to be proactive and do it ahead of time. LaPierre spoke. Being involved with the snowmobile club he believes the only way to get this done is to have an ordinance approved that any developer had to develop a green way and it had to be done at a town meeting. He doesn't believe Boscawen has ever done that. Gilmore thought that was a good idea. But it is too late to do that for this lot. Gilmore asked if Kaplan would like to put together an appropriate letter on this discussing the natural resources point of view. Kaplan would be happy to be involved. Cherian felt it was hard to support a letter that had not yet been written, but he is in support of working with the land owners. Abbe stated that a grey horn owl may be nesting in the area was reported by the property owner. Cousens asked who the developer was. Easler reported that it was Tom Berkley of River Edge Properties.

Gilmore received a phone call from someone who is involved with monitoring Walker Pond for pollution. They have a request for a sounding chain. He feels these are expensive. They are looking for a donation of \$600 to get a sounding chain for their monitoring work of Walker Pond. Abbe asked what a sounding chain was. Gilmore said it's a bronze or brass chain. The list price may be \$1,700 and they need a 60 or 70 footer. Easler asked if he was going to get something in writing from this person. Gilmore said he was.

#### **Non-Public:**

A **motion** to go into Non-Public session per RSA 91:A III (d) at 7:27 pm was made by Cousens and seconded by Kaplan. Roll Call Vote: Abbe AYE, Cousens AYE, Kaplan AYE, LaPierre AYE, Cherian AYE, Carrier AYE, and Gilmore AYE. Motion carries.

A **motion** to come out of Non-Public session at 7:48 pm was made by Cousens and seconded by Kaplan. Roll Call Vote: Abbe AYE, Cousens AYE, Kaplan AYE, LaPierre AYE, Cherian AYE, Carrier AYE, and Gilmore AYE. Motion carries.

#### **Public Session**

A **motion** to send the invoice to the Northern Rail Trail for payment for the legal fees from Upton and Hatfield was made by Cousens and seconded by Abbe. Roll Call Vote: Abbe AYE, Cousens AYE, Kaplan AYE, LaPierre AYE, Cherian AYE, Carrier AYE and Gilmore AYE. Motion carries.

A **motion** to confirm the offer for property listed as Map 45, Parcel 74 which is 29.43 acres and Map 45, Parcel 78, which is 53 acres was made by Kaplan and seconded by Cousens. Roll Call Vote: Abbe AYE, Cousens AYE, LaPierre AYE, Cherian AYE, Kaplan AYE, Carrier AYE and Gilmore AYE. Motion carries.

A **motion** to seal the Non-Public Minutes was made by Cousens and seconded by Abbe. Roll Call Vote: Abbe AYE, Cousens AYE, Kaplan AYE, LaPierre AYE, Cherian AYE, Carrier AYE, and Gilmore AYE.

Niebling discussed with the commission that it has been several years since the Weir Town Forest Management Plan was approved. It would be useful at a future meeting to review recommendations in that plan and see if it brings to mind any further actions the Commission may wish to take. He would like to see it as an agenda item for March or April. He was thinking Earth Day they could have a celebration of the new trail head at the new town forest. They could have a dedication. They could invite GMI, the company that did the welding for the sign. This would acknowledge the work that went into the trail head. He asked if the mapping work would be done by April or May. Abbe is working with Ashton at Avitar currently. They have a rough draft. They need to come up with trail names but he thinks they can have something by April. Gilmore thought they should do it in April or May. He would like to tentatively plan on meeting in person, outside in May.

Kaplan wondered if the lady that was with Fish and Game that attended a couple of meetings ago who would be attending more meetings. She could be a great resource to help think through some things. Abbe has been in contact with her recently. She is interested.

Meeting was adjourned 8:02 pm.

**Next Meeting:** • March 16, 2021

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*