

Boscawen Conservation Commission
Final Minutes
Monday February 17, 2015

Commissioners Present: Deborah Hinds, Tom Gilmore, Pamela Hardy

Commissioner Absent: Lisa Bissonnette

Alternate Commissioners Present: Norman LaPierre, Jeffrey Abbe

Others Present: Rose Fife, Recording Secretary, and Alan Hardy.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call was taken by the Recording Secretary. Roll Call: Deborah Hinds, Tom Gilmore, Pamela Hardy, Norman LaPierre, alternate and Jeffrey Abbe, alternate all present. Chairman designated the alternate members to be voting tonight.

Review and Acceptance of the prior meeting's minutes: Chair Deborah Hinds did not have any changes to be made to the January 21, 2015 Minutes. A motion to approve the January 21, 2015 Minutes was made by Jeffrey Abbe, seconded by Pamela Hardy and passed by a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Pamela Hardy reported that the conservation account has \$165,082.00 and there is \$4800 in the operating account waiting to be transferred. There is also \$10,993.24 in the Town Forest account with outstanding check of \$1,551.00 waiting to be cleared which represented the payment for the Town Forest cleanup. All monies have been moved to Franklin Savings Bank.

Old Business:

Town Forest: Jeffrey Abbe spoke about the 12 proposed signs for the trails. There is a meeting at the City of Concord Complex on Green Street on February 25, 2015 at 5:30pm for the towns to meet. Jeffrey Abbe submitted a map showing what signage was on the Weir Road property. There is no need for a wheel chair accessible trail sign or a boat launch sign. Also noted on the map where the locations of the picnic tables. Discussion ensued regarding naming the Town forest as well as names for the trails. It was suggested that the Town Forest be named after Jim Colby and two of the trails possibly be named Colby Loop Trail and Hardy Bypass. They also wanted to name loops and trails after others. The back loop has no name as of yet. Jeffrey Abbe spoke with Elaine Clow about the Weir Farm. Alan Hardy had said they had information in their archives regarding the Weir Farm. Guides were found and they will be set out for people to take possibly at the trail head. Deborah Hinds would like to add the City/Town on the boundary lines. Jeffrey Abbe also discussed about how Concord had all the property lines delineated. Jeff will contact the Paul Gendron LLS, the City of Concord's Land Surveyor to see if they can get a copy of the City's GIS file on the property lines around the forest. More discussion took place regarding different locations and landmarks on the map of the Forest. Colby Youth trail and the Hardy Bypass signs were up for approval.

Motion by Tom Gilmore to authorize the signs for the Colby Loop Trail and the Hardy By-Pass, which was seconded by Pam Hardy. Do they put them on 4x4's or on trees. Alan Hardy was in favor of anchoring posts. The Motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Alan Hardy would like to see the Colby Loop sign done first and brought to the town meeting. Deborah Hinds asked if the Conservation Commission was the Board/Commission that gave permission to allow hunting, fishing, and tree stands or do the selectmen do that?

A visitor was present for the meeting.

Jon King from Hopkinton Forestry and Land Clearing who wanted to discuss cleaning up the Town Forest. Alan Hardy had invited him to a meeting. Deborah Hinds spoke of having the blown down section cleaned up or possibly creating another loop. Norman LaPierre was concerned that the property off the Weir Road section would be ripped up as it was soft. Jon King said HFLC has a logging job coming up in the spring south of the County Farm for Forester Dennis McKinney. Norman LaPierre asked what side on Route 3 they will be doing. Jon King said the east side. Jon King thought that the property was logged in 1995. Deborah Hinds asked Alan Hardy if he had walked Jon King through the property. Jon King asked if they required a Town Forester as he knew that the Town of Boscawen did not have one. Deborah Hinds said they do not have a Forester. Jon King said he "had several foresters in his back pocket". Deborah Hinds said that there are areas that could use cleaning up. Norman LaPierre asked what Jon King would do with those trees. Jon King said that if it wasn't good for lumber they would chip it. Tom Gilmore asked what permission they would need to obtain to take the logs out the Concord side. Norm LaPierre asked Jon King if he had walked the property. Jon King said he had not. Deborah Hinds asked Jon King if he was a Forester. Jon King said no. She asked if they had someone in the company that is a Forester. Jon King said no., he works with them. He works with Dennis McKinney. They also do a lot with Tim Fleury, the Merrimack County Forester. Deborah Hinds asked if the Conservation Commission would be given a map showing where they are going and what they would get out of it. Alan Hardy asked about the Yield Tax on Municipal property? He asked Jon King. An intent to cut will be required. Jon King said they do not have to cut anything, but maybe a management type of thing. Deborah Hinds thinks they need to do a cut to open trails up there. Jeff Abbe asked about tonnage and logs, how much would they get. Alan Hardy asked about hard wood and the oak market. Jon King said the oak market is holding pretty good. GPS coordinates were discussed. Maps were offered to Jon King. Jon King said he would be interested in walking the property in the spring. Deborah Hinds gave Jon King a copy of a map with the notations of the Town Forest. Alan Hardy Jon King if he would also walk the property across from the gun shop. Jon King left the meeting.

WARRANT Article discussion: Alan Hardy spoke about Warrant Article #17 which is to see if the town would vote to change the name of THE Town Forest to James F. Colby Town Forest. Deborah Hinds said that's not technically the Town Forest. Alan Hardy said that they would request this name change this year and then next year they would follow up with making it a Town Forest. Tom Gilmore talked about beginning the process. Deborah Hinds said that they would need to have the property surveyed. Tom Gilmore asked what the estimate to do that would be. Deborah Hinds said it would cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000. She also said it would be beneficial for the logging to take place and the Surveyor to go in. It may keep the cost down a little bit. They should get 3 prices on surveying the property and tell them what they want. They want the drawing files and pick up certain things along the way. They want it tied into USGS. Early spring is the best time for surveying. Tom Gilmore asked what they needed to do to enable the logger to go in. Deborah Hinds said that next month they could make a list of what they want to send out to certain Surveyors to start the bid. She would like control of the base map of the Town Forest so they can add trails, etc.

Alan Hardy said that in order to use Conservation Commission money it has to result in ownership. Jeff Abbe asked if it was an RSA. Alan Hardy said yes.

Deborah brought out maps showing the layout of the Town Forest as well as soils maps showing the wetlands and the topography. Deborah Hinds argument is that the property is not buildable. The Conservation Commission does not own this property and should as it was partially Conservation Commission's money that purchased it. Tom Gilmore asked if it is now owned by the town but we are suggesting they give it to the Conservation Commission. Deborah Hinds said yes as some of our money was used to purchase it and there is no buildable lots on that property. Alan Hardy spoke about how ownership took place. Deb can go to the Town Selectmen and layout the information to them. She asked Alan Hardy if they could get on the Selectmen's agenda next week, Wednesday February 25th at 4:30 pm. Alan Hardy said that Deborah Hinds would be going to discuss "Town Owned Forest". Kellee Jo Easler will be asked to email Deborah Hinds Tax Maps 81 & 83.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on March 5, 2015 at 7 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm was made by Norman LaPierre, seconded by Pam Hardy and passed by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by Rose Fife