

**Town of Boscawen, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex**

**Meeting Minutes - Draft
Tuesday, June 21, 2016 @ 7:00 PM**

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norman LaPierre and Lyman Cousens, Alexandria Hudek

Others Present: Alan Hardy. Planning & Community Development Director,

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Regular Business

Roll call done by Chair Gilmore.

Minutes:

A **motion** to accept the Minutes of April 19 2016 was made by Alexandria Hudek, seconded by Norman LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

A **motion** to approve the May 17, 2016 Minutes was made by Jeff Abbe, seconded by Lyman Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.

Accountant's Report:

Tom Gilmore noted that they did receive a copy of the accountants report.

New Business:

Jack Shields talked to Tom Gilmore about the Contoocook North Branch Advisory Committee which is similar to the Upper Merrimack River Advisory Committee. This committee monitors what's going on in that area of the river. Tom Gilmore volunteered to be the Boscawen representative to the Contoocook River group if the Selectmen deemed so. He went to his first meeting with the Upper Merrimack River LAC last week. The River's committees gets a copy of DES approvals for culverts, etc. Tom Gilmore felt that they didn't follow the Rules of Order. They do not take Motions and they do not take votes, so he is going to suggest to that committee that they do so. Norm LaPierre asked how many people were at the meeting. Tom Gilmore said there were some from Canterbury, Bow and Concord.

Tom Gilmore asked for a motion that the conservation Board recommend to the Select Board that he be recommended to the commission of DES to go on to the Contoocook River Local Advisory Committee. A **motion** to do so was made by Lyman Cousens, seconded by Alexandria Hudek and passed by a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

John Keegan Easement. Jeff Abbe did a walk of the property on Friday June 3, 2016 at 8 am. They had a great walk through. John Keegan followed up with his statement of intent. He divided his property in half. He saw the wetland side to the west that abuts the Woodman lot, which is also in the protection of NH Forest property. The property has some wetlands and quite a bit of wildlife. Tom Gilmore said that he understood that Mr. Keegan wanted that preserved in perpetuity. He's not looking for an easement purchase, but he will donate the easement. There would be some costs. Lyman Cousens asked how big the property is. Jeff Abbe said they were talking about 80 acres of the property. Alexandria Hudek asked how much would go into the easement? Jeff Abbe said they keep about 3 or 4 acres out for the house. Tom Gilmore asked if it was the consensus of the Board to take care of that. Jeff Abbe thought it was a good idea to preserve something that abuts other preserved property. Tom Gilmore asked if it was the consensus of this committee that this was a highly desirable property to keep. Lyman Cousens asked what the down side was. Tom Gilmore said the downside is that they have to give some funds to Five Rivers if the Commission want them to be the conservatory of this property. Lyman Cousens asked if they had to pay the Keegan's for the easement. Tom Gilmore said that his understanding is that he would donate his easement. He's not asking for any compensation. Alan Hardy said his understanding is that his main objective is conservation. Whether or not there is value or whether or not the Keagan's would go from fully compensated to donated, he's not sure. Alan Hardy said that part of what Five River's does is establish the value of the easement. If it is a donation, it would be tax deductible. If there is a negotiation about a payment to acquire the easement, that still remains to be seen along with what that value is. Alan Hardy said that if the easement is in place, it reduces the value of the property. Jeff Abbe asked if it was currently in current use. Alan Hardy said that it was. Lyman Cousens asked what the Commission needed to do to move it ahead. Alan Hardy said to approve the negotiation with Five Rivers. Norm LaPierre asked if Five River's was going to look into some grants. Alan Hardy noted the one other step before the Commission acts is to consult with the Board of Selectmen. You don't need their approval, but the Commission needs to consult with the Selectmen.

Tom Gilmore said that they were looking for a motion to authorize Alan Hardy to work with Five Rivers to begin the process to determine the validity of the easement of the Keegan property.

A **motion** was made by Lyman Cousens, seconded by Norman LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote. Tom Gilmore asked if it was the consensus of the Board that this was a good thing to go with. The motion shows the consensus. Alexandria Hudek needed to leave early and was not part of the vote.

The Town Forest Sign: Jeff Abbe received an email saying that Doug Cygan hasn't gotten the approval from the pesticide board to do the spraying at the Town Forest. The Town Forest is a jungle right now. Alan Hardy asked if he knew what the sign was going to say? Jeff Abbe put up ribbons every 20 feet. Norman LaPierre asked if he got the pole saw and brush saw and Jeff said he did. Jeff Abbe said they need to talk about mowing the fields. Alan Hardy said that the person that was doing the mowing is moving out of town and if he is not going to be available he does have someone interested in mowing the fields. He will get more information and send it out in an email. Norman LaPierre asked if they were going to put a cap on what they would like to spend. They normally spend around \$300.00. Alan Hardy said there was no cap. They have money in the forestry maintenance account.

Lyman Cousens made a **motion** that the Chair be authorized to act on the mowing once the details are in, seconded by Jeff Abbe and passed a unanimous vote. Jeff Abbe said if Alan Hardy needed the gate unlocked, just give him a call.

Trailhead Map Signage: Jeff Abbe said Alan Hardy had gotten something from Avitar. It is beautifully done. Lyman Cousens asked where the entrance was at Weir Road. Picnic tables may go in around the leather dump site. There are a few spelling corrections. Alan Hardy said they used the word "City" and it should be "Town". The scale will also need to be changed. It will be adjusted as soon as he knows what size paper they will be

putting it on. Jeff Abbe wanted to spend a little more time going over it to refine it. It is a little unclear where the property lines are. Alan Hardy felt it would be good to show the perimeter of the town. How soon does the commission think they will move to merge the lots? Tom Gilmore suggested they merge it before they finalize the maps. Does the Commission need to get a new survey to do that? Alan Hardy said that they can do administratively what needs to be done to merge the lots. Once those lots are merged they would have to go to the Planning Board if they ever wanted the property to be unmerged.

A **motion** recommending that they merge all the lots that are part of the town forest was made by Lyman Cousens, seconded by Norm LaPierre and passed by unanimous vote. A **motion** requesting the town attorney to review the process that is required to accomplish the merge of these lots was made by Norm LaPierre, seconded by Jeff Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

Picnic table water sealing has been all done by Jeff Abbe.

Alexandria Hudek returned. Tom Gilmore gave Alexandria a quick overview of what took place while she was gone. Alexandria Hudek offered to help with mapping as she works with GIS systems.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm was made by Lyman Cousens, seconded by Norman LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting July 19, 2016 @ 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Rose Fife