

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Meeting Minutes - Final
Tuesday, February 20, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore, Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norman LaPierre, and Forester Charlie Niebling

Absent: Lyman Cousens

Also present: Alan Hardy, Planning & Community Development Director.

Guest: Matt St. Onge

Regular Business

- Open by Chair at 7:00 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of the January 16, 2018 meeting. A **motion** to accept the January 16, 2018 Minutes was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report was available in their packet.

Old Business:

- Hardy Easement Update – Gilmore said they have the final contract to sign. A **motion** to allow Gilmore to sign the contract was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous.
- Matt St. Onge was introduced by Abbe. Mr. St. Onge has done clipping and removing blown down trees in the forest. Abbe said he's been a huge help. Abbe said Mr. St. Onge has had a lot of good ideas and Mr. St. Onge discussed some of those. Mr. St. Onge said that once the clearing was done it was a lot nicer in the Town Forest. He contacted the Conservation Commission about the pump house. He would like to take the concrete blocks off. He was on the Concord Trails Committee but he'd rather put his time in out in the field. Gilmore said he was welcome to join them on the Conservation Commission but Hardy noted that he was not a town of Boscawen resident and could not. Hardy will double check the by-laws. Gilmore said he could be a member of the Town Forest Committee. LaPierre said he thought they were called "associate members" if they didn't live in town.
- Town Forest Update: The final accounting report was received by Niebling and needs to be signed. Niebling said it's a memorialization in writing. Hopkinton Forestry & Land Clearing (HFLC) will come back to smooth the field out as best as they can to get it to a suitable condition for future brush hogging. The Commission may want to get some supplemental funding from the Fish and Game grants. Dave Herrick offered to do some cleanup work for free but would like preferential treatment in any future timber sale. Niebling told Mr. Herrick that he could not do that. Gilmore said he would sign off with authorization from the Commission. Niebling said HFLC will put the water bar up to the Weir Road. Niebling will build headers around the pipes. Abbe said they have about \$1,000 worth of seed to put down also. Hardy said they have finished up the Edna McKenna building at the Merrimack County Corrections and there has been talk to have a program where the 'residents' of the correction facility help clean up the Forest. It could be a valuable resource. Russ Cunningham is the contact person there. He can arrange a meeting. Niebling said there is a lot work to be done in the Forest. A lot of stumps were cut high that need to be taken down to the ground. Gilmore said they need to consider another cut this year as they are short on funds. They spent \$23,000 on repairing the road. Once the Town budget is approved, Hardy said they will have a \$2,000 operating budget. Niebling asked if they had talked to John Fife to see what the increase of mowing cost would be. Abbe said he would contact John soon. Gilmore said he thought it should be at least double or triple. Gilmore said it needs to be mow able

condition. A **motion** to allow Gilmore to sign the contract was made by Abbe, seconded by LaPierre and passed by a unanimous vote. Niebling will scan it and send Hardy a copy for the files and make sure HFLC gets a copy of it as well.

- Mr. St. Onge's recommendation is to put a separate trail up the ridge line of old Weir Road. Niebling said he walked up there in the fresh snow and it was nice. Abbe said it would tie into the Hardy bypass also. Gilmore said they would wait until the Spring to take action on the Pump House. Mr. St. Onge noted that with abbe's permission, he cut a lot of the vines and thinks it looks fantastic, especially the top of the foundations. The barn foundation is one of the highest. He was wondering if they could take down the top rocks to alleviate anyone getting hurt. Gilmore thought the Commission could wait until Spring to make those kinds of decisions.
- Tom Gilmore said he talked with Rob Morrill who owns the field on the corner of Long Street and Water Street who said that the construction of the farm building is being held off right now. He would like to consider putting in a conservation easement. That may cost a considerable amount of money. He thinks it's about ¾ of a mile of road frontage there. Niebling felt it would be an attractive LCHIP project. Abbe asked how motivated they were.
- Gilmore also noted that he received a phone call from a lady in Salisbury who wants to put up a training session on Water Wells and getting them tested. She would like the Commission's cooperation. She will have a meeting in May and she will get the dates. Hardy asked who she works for. Gilmore said she was on the Conservation Commission in Salisbury. Gilmore will share her email with Hardy.
- Walker Pond: Hardy was at the Water Precinct last night and they asked to have the proposal in writing. Gilmore said their offer was \$20,000. LaPierre asked how many acres. Hardy said that the town will be responsible for drafting up the documents. LaPierre asked if there was a horse power limit on the pond. Abbe said there is a sign that says 6 horse power only allowed on that pond. The sign is visible at the ramp. Gilmore asked if the town owned the pond or Webster. Hardy said Boscawen has 2 shores and Webster has the 3rd shore. The bulk of the homes are on the Webster side. Much discussion regarding the pond, the frontage, parking area, etc.
- Fish and Game grant: Niebling and Abbe will work together on the grant paperwork. Discussion regarding grants, federal funding, LCHIP grants, etc.

More funds will be coming in from the sales of the Knowlton Road subdivision. Hardy estimated approximately \$20,000.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: March 20, 2018 at 7pm

Respectfully Submitted
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary