

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex**

**Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 18, 2019 @ 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norm LaPierre, and Mark Kaplan, Lorrie Carey (arrived at 7:08 pm)

Also present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director, and Rose Fife, Recording Secretary

Absent: Lyman Cousens, Henry Carrier, Alternate

Guest: Charlie Niebling

Meeting opened at 7 pm.

- Review and Acceptance of the minutes of prior meeting minutes – A motion to approve the Minutes was made by LaPierre, seconded by Kaplan and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report – Commission reviewed the reports.
- Town Forest Update – Abbe reported. Trails have been cleaned up. A resident on the Concord side requested that the commission remove a hunting blind at the top of the Blue Ridge trail and it has been taken care of it. Abbe would like to purchase one more bag of conservation mix for the skid roads and the sandogidy crossing, which was approved.

Old Business:

Natural Resource Update – Mike Tardiff, CNHRPC Executive Director reported. Kaplan explained he's been working with CNHRPC regarding mapping. Kaplan reported that their goal is to set priority around resources that they have. They need mapping that will get more specific. Easler had suggested that Kaplan speak with Mr. Tardif and he did. Tardif reported that they spoke the other day. It is an outgrowth of a master plan. There is a lot of data. They can walk the Commission through the process to create maps from this data. Kaplan likes that the Commission would be involved in the process. Gilmore asked if it would be for the entire town. Tardif said it would be town wide. Much discussion took place regarding mapping. Tardif would like to know that the Commission feels that they are going in the right direction, etc.

Creaser Lot Management Plan – Charlie Niebling, Town Forester reported. The Creaser lot is 376 acres. Gilmore noted that the commission still needed to resolve the ownership of the property and how they would like to proceed.

Niebling could not verify the amount of acreage and how it was acquired. By the tax map, this parcel and 2 adjacent town owned lots add up to 376 acres. By GPS the acreage adds up to about 360 acres. The map on page 4 shows the ownership of the lots of the inventory he prepared a report on. Page 5 shows topography. Page 6 shows soils. Page 7 shows habitat diversity. Page 8 shows the graphic from the state wildlife action plan. Page 9 shows the access and recreational use. He GPS'd those trails. There is very little wheeled unauthorized use of the trails. Page 10 shows boundary lines. He suggests they hire a surveyor to secure the questionable lines. Page 11 is a forestry inventory. He did the inventory in April over several days. He measured everything 5 inches and over. He divided the property up into 7 stands as shown on page 12. Page 13 shows the stands, acreage and type of wood that is located in those stands. 1.4 million Board feet came out of this property in years past. A total of 6,300 tons of pulp wood and 340 cords of firewood. That was approximately 15 years ago. East of the pond was not logged. Standing timber value – capital timber value is \$488,580. It's probably appreciating at about 2-3% a year compounded. It's a good investment. Most is in oak and pine. See pi chart at the bottom of page 14. The

table on page 14 summarizes the timber. Page 16 and 17 are a set of recommendations for the Commission to consider. Administrative consists of adopting this plan, getting lines properly identified, and talking about future use of the property. He'd like to see the property designated as town forest.

Gilmore asks if he recommends that they do not log this property for 10 years or so. Niebling said he doesn't believe there is any forestry to do up there for 10 or 15 years. He'd like to see it grow. There are adjacent undeveloped lots that have no access that may be of interest to the town. He suggests stands III, VI and VII be considered natural area, not to be disturbed.

Gilmore thanked him for the great job he did on the report. Niebling said if they had any further questions, thoughts or suggestions, to please email him. He will fix the report and get it to him at the end of the month. Gilmore asked Easler to schedule a meeting for him with Hardy to discuss. Easler said she would take care of that. Carey said that the argument that the value of the timber on the land pays for the investment that the town made is a great argument.

Kaplan asked how the committee decides if there is anything they want to change about it. Gilmore feels that they should arrive at a consensus right now, or not. Abbe said it would be a working document that they can change at any time. If the Commission would authorize Gilmore to do so. Carey said she feels that to bring it to the Selectmen they would like an over view piece with the history of purchasing this property as well as public concern or the cost vs. the benefit which shows that this is now an investment. Gilmore noted that it isn't necessary income to the town budget but to projects that they would like to do. Carey said spaces like the town forest adds to quality of life. Gilmore asked for an approval to proceed to present this to the Selectmen. There was a consensus to do so. Niebling noted that if his description of the history of the acquisition is incorrect, he'd like to know so he can correct it.

Mike Seraikas, Wetlands Scientist 45 29 2 – They have Phase IV of the Knowlton Road subdivision. They have developed 4 lots. Access seems to be a little bit of a problem. Wetlands would allow them to cross with the minimal disturbance. He showed photos of where the wetlands began on Lot 17. They've been working on this project since 2016. Gilmore asked if they were proposing a mitigation plan for this crossing. Mr. Seraikas said the impact is less than 900 s.f. with two crossings. Lot 15 and lot 16 have a common drive to go into lots. Gilmore asked if the Planning Board approved that proposal. They went to Planning Board in June and they deemed the application incomplete. They are scheduled to go back before Planning in July. Lot 16 and Lot 15, those driveways are going to come in on property that is not their frontage so they will need deeded right of ways. Kaplan asked if this was part of Water Street and these houses are to be on Town Water. He said that they have had municipal water. They got a review letter back but there is additional information that the water precinct is looking for. Gilmore said that the water precinct has problems with water pressure in that area. Selectwoman Carey addressed that issue. Abbe questioned the direction of flow as noted on the map. Do they flow towards each other? Seraikas explained that lot 17 is going down towards the intersection Terrace Hill. The other one flows out under Knowlton Road. Gilmore felt that the wetland impact was minimal.

Gilmore doesn't believe they have any issues from a conservation commission standpoint. He is looking for authorization for the Chairman to sign off on the minimal wetlands crossing paperwork as appropriate. A **motion** to allow the Chairman to sign off on the wetlands crossing paperwork was made by LaPierre, seconded by Kaplan, unanimous vote.

Kaplan noted that he completed the NH Cooperative Extension cover process. They teach you about all the natural resources in NH. So he can be a resource now. He would like to encourage anyone on the Commission

or in town who would like to get involved in the process to reach out to him. He spent 3.5 days being taught by foresters, etc. It was sponsored by UNH Extension.

Abbe mentioned that they received a reply from BioBlitz and the town was not chosen. Kaplan said there were 48 applications.

August Site Walk Update 8/12/19 – She spoke with Tim Bernier and Planning Board for a site walk. They do not need to go on the site walk. Tim Bernier was supposed to touch base with the owners of Boscawen Sand and Gravel/GMI about their walk in August. Abbe spoke with Steve at the pit so they are aware. Abbe suggested they do it at 5 pm in August right before the meeting on the 20th.

Abbe has had a call from a resident on Weir Road regarding people shooting in the pit and leaving their targets behind. Gilmore said maybe Fish and Game should be notified. Gilmore felt that the answer was to provide a safe place to target practice but he doesn't believe the Commission should get involved.

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Kaplan, seconded by Norm, passed by a unanimous vote at 8:32 pm.

Next Meeting: July 16, 2019 at 7pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*