

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex

Final - Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 16, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Tom Gilmore Chair, Jeffrey Abbe, Norm LaPierre, Lyman Cousens (excused after bid opening) and Edward Cherian.

Also present: Rose Fife, Recording Secretary

Guest: Henry Carrier

Absent: Mark Kaplan

Regular Business

- Open by Chair 7:00 pm
- Roll call by Chair
- Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of September 18, 2018. A **motion** to accept the Minutes was made by LaPierre, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.
- Accountant's Report: Gilmore said accountants report doesn't reflect the money paid out to date which includes payment to the Town Forester.
- Bid opening: Gilmore and Niebling were here for the bid opening. Seven logging companies came out for the showing. Four bids were submitted. Ames was the highest bid, but they are a company that the Commission and the Forester were not familiar with. Mock Logging was the second highest. Gilmore was inclined to go with Mock Logging. Mock's bid was only \$2,100 less. Gilmore feels that they can justify letting the contract go to the second highest bidder as he is in their community and they are familiar with his work. Gilmore, Niebling and Hardy have all used him to do logging jobs. Niebling said Ames contacted him, but did not attend the showing. He had emailed and called Niebling with questions. His prices are higher. Niebling is pleased with all the bids, especially with the Oak prices. Gilmore noted that the bidders wanted the deadline to be extended to October of 2019 due to wet ground. Gilmore made a **motion** to award the bid to Adam Mock, and seconded by LaPierre. Cherian asked if the bid amounts would stay the same even if the job was completed within a year's time. Niebling said yes. **Motion** granted by a unanimous vote. Niebling noted that the others that bud asked if they could see the bid numbers. He feels that it is okay to do so. Gilmore said that was fine. Cousens asked if the road they paid for last time around, would it be utilized again. The proceeds from the first sale was used to create/repair that road. Cousens asked if there would be any other expenses. Niebling said no, it was a clean job. Gilmore said the expense would be the Forester. As of 9.1.18 timber tax is no longer assessed on town own land, which means the bids were higher but the towns wouldn't receive any tax for this.
- Town Forest Update: Gilmore wanted the Commission to know that the well has been done. Niebling said that they could settle up with HFLC. Their bill is \$5,100, which was \$2,600 for harrowing, liming and seeding and \$2,500 for rock picking and smoothing of the field. They sent him a statement noting considerably more work than that but capped it at the price set by the Commission. The amount due HFLC is less than the grant amount received from Fish and Game.

Niebling went on to say that for the new cut, now that the bid has been awarded, the next step is to draft a contract between the town and Mock Logging. He will sit down with Adam Mock and do that. He will try to get a draft to the commission before the monthly meeting.

New Business

- INRS review of Intent to Cuts and Matrix Site Factors – Request of Services for Assessing - Seeking approval for Conservation to pay for services with 2019 Budget: Niebling said Kellee Easler asked him about a month ago if he would be willing to review the intent to cuts. The town assesses fair market value on the timber. The town was advised that they should be applying a matrix to assess it. After the intent has been filed he will visit the site and recommend to the town how to assess the timber. Gilmore asked if that would be paid for by the Commission. Niebling said Kellee is proposing that it be funded by the Conservation Commission but he feels it is a tax assessment issue. Cherian wasn't sure. He will talk with Kellee Easler. He thinks it's a good idea to bring Niebling in to do that job but he feels it may be more of a fee to the Tax Assessors, not the Conservation Commission. Niebling figures about an hour for each sale. The town typically receives between 4 and 8 Intents to cut per year. Niebling said a Report of Cut is filed at the end of the cut. Cherian will talk with the Selectmen tomorrow but he agrees Niebling should be paid out of a different fund.

Cousens left at 7:25 pm. Niebling also left at 7:25 pm.

Mail received: A bill for Association of Conservation Commission for membership dues which he will hand in for Alan Hardy to pay. Cherian advised the Commission that there are 2 conferences coming up. NHMA, which is a Wednesday and Thursday. You can email Linda to sign up for it. Local Energy Solutions which is the same week, 11.16.18 has a one day conference. You can look it up under LES. That conference has information regarding wood, biomass, solar, etc. Gilmore said normally there is a November 10th seminar for the Conservation Commissioners.

- New Easements – Gilmore has heard no news on the Morrill Easement. There is a potential for another piece of property that may come for sale next to the town forest. Walker Pond is still being worked on. Money for the Morrill Easement will come from the Capital Fund.

For next month's meeting it was suggested to ask Alan Hardy for a report of Change of use taxes that will be coming in.

- Permits and reviews – none.
- Town Forest: Doug Sygan was in there today and sprayed the stone walls. He believe he's done. The seed is doing excellent. They have grass growing. They are only allowed to mow once a year due to Fish and game grant rules. Gilmore asked when they suggested it be mowed. Abbe said maybe August or July. The block wall hasn't been hauled off yet. Dean Hollins would just as soon bury it. Abbe said there is a mud hole they could use the material to fill in. Niebling suggested the stump dump would also be another location to take the material to.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm was made by Lapierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote..

Next Meeting: November 20, 2018 at 7 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary