

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Draft- January 11, 2016

Present: Nate Fogg chair, Dave Mankus vice-chair, Steve Brown (7:13) Tom Dube (7:21) Dave Tinkham alternate and Donna Martin, alternate.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Dave Tinkham was appointed to sit for member Steve Brown and Donna Martin was appointed to sit for Relf Fogg.

➤ **Public**

None

➤ ***Applications/ Approvals***

The Commission reviewed the following applications:

- 151 Olde Pine Rd TX Map 81/43- land use management file
- Goransson, Lavender, Remick, and Spencer-Smith- Conservation Monitoring reports

*S Brown joined the meeting.

➤ ***Consideration of Minutes***

12/14/2015

D Mankus made a motion for the Wakefield Conservation Commission to accept the minutes of 12/14/2015 as amended. The motion was seconded by D Tinkham. The vote was 4-0-1 it passed.

New Board Business

➤ ***Conservation Deed for Laurion/ McLaughlin conservation properties***

N Fogg stated he has provided a draft conservation easement for review and discussion and noted that they still need to clarify camping and outside fires. He noted that they need to do what is best for the Town of Wakefield but also can be flexible and approve them on a case by case basis.

*T Dube joined the meeting.

D Mankus stated they had discussed the idea of having a permit approved on a case by case basis because youth groups like the Cub Scouts may be interested in having a local place to camp.

T Dube noted they also discussed the future of having 4-wheeled vehicles using the trails like snowmobiles.

N Fogg noted the language of this easement was derived from the Barbour easement which is contiguous to this property.

D Tinkham suggested they check with the Town Attorney as to if the easement would be amendable in the future if needed for additional recreational purposes.

N Fogg noted at this point they could decide on the camping and campfires and if they want to address those on a case by case basis.

D Mankus agrees they should approve them on a case by case basis but feels they should be cautious of campfires and the liability of allowing them, or at least limit them to day time only for youth groups.

D Tinkham feels that ATV/UTV's should be permissible similar to the Lavender easement. He does not feel open fires should be allowed and a sign should be installed notifying the public of such.

N Fogg stated that based on this discussion revisions are needed and they would re-discuss it at a future meeting.

Unfinished Business

N Fogg reviewed the Unfinished Business list and provided updates as follows:

1. Gage Hill Property:
 - a. Develop parking area- in process
 - b. Kiosk- in process
 - c. Trail Development- NF to map trail
 - d. Trail map- NF to do for brochure
 - e. Signage for trails-mark with paint
 - f. Wetland application- NF will do
 2. Detailed audit on conservation properties file
 - a. Audit files-on going
 - b. Revise NRI list and acreage as necessary- DT revising and will provide NF with master
 3. Union Meadows town properties conservation easements-need to provide information portion to Cartographics
 4. Advertise the Adopt a Conservation Area-this has been done and listed on the Town's Website. No applications received to date.
 5. Is a Town Forest considered conserved property OR can it be sold and/or developed? - need survey done. Contacted NHMA Legal inquiry technically it could be sold the County Forester could provide a management plan and a funding source would need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Commission agreed a varied plan would be the way to go with this property.
 6. Develop a tri-fold of the town's conservation properties-Secretary drafting a brochure for Gage Hill to start with. Commission discussed the idea of using cameras to monitor dumping.
 7. Add the list of "Working Farms" to the NRI – meeting scheduled for the 1st Monday in February.
- **NHACC Dues**

N Fogg noted the annual dues are \$333, which is based on population and only a minimal increase from last year.

D Mankus made a motion for the Wakefield Conservation Commission to approve and expenditure of \$333 to pay for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission annual dues. The motion was seconded by D Tinkham. The vote was 5-0 it passed.

➤ ***Any Other Business***

T Dube questioned the status of the Bobcat hunting proposal.

N Fogg noted he forwarded the information he received via e-mail.

D Tinkham noted no decision has been made yet and it is still an ongoing discussion.

Public Comment

None.

➤ ***Next Meeting***

The date for the next meeting is t/b/a.

Being no further business before the Commission, N Fogg entertained a motion to adjourn.

S Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by D Mankus. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio