

Conservation Commission Meeting – 25 February 2013

Present: Dave Mankus, chair; Nate Fogg, vice chair; Relf Fogg; Steve Brown (alt); Dave Tinkham (alt)

Public: Jerry O'Connor (videographer)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

The minutes from 2-18-13 were tabled. **R Fogg made a motion to table the minutes from Feb 18th. The motion was seconded by S Brown. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.**

It was noted that the Town Forest on Pray Hill Road has been flagged by member P Kasprzyk. The commission will walk the property when there is less snow, but hopefully before the leaves come out.

The commission spent \$22,618.25 from Conservation Funds towards the purchase of the Union Meadow Properties. A PREP Grant cannot be considered until the conservation easement passes. This money could be used to offset our expenses because even though the commission did not complete the transaction, the properties did end up in a conservation easement, just with different owners.

It was decided to vote on the PREP grant with the full board in attendance. **D Tinkham made a motion to wait for full board to be in attendance to vote on PREP Grant. The motion was seconded by R Fogg.** It was noted that some members felt that we should not be part of anything that gives up any control of property owned by the Town to the Federal Government. Members also mentioned that a significant portion of grants somehow have Federal strings attached. **The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.**

NRI presentation by Amanda Stone was informative. The general consensus was that we should solicit help and collect much of the data ourselves. We can work on a section at a time to keep it simple and less overwhelming. NRI's from other communities could be used as a template to produce a product. We might consider hiring an outside consultant to make sure that the finished report is coherent and useful. MMRG has offered money to assist with our NRI. Are there any strings attached? The commission decided that we should form an ad-hoc committee to solicit help from other community members. Some local people have considerable knowledge of resources, especially our lakes. **N Fogg made a motion to invite potential NRI helpers to our March 11th meeting. The motion was seconded by R Fogg. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.**

All members should try to spread the word and get interested individuals to attend the meeting.

The NRI section of the Master Plan is not intended to be worked on at the present time.

Potential conservation land behind the Mobil Station- Nothing further to report.
No new permits to review.
No correspondence to review.
No financials to review.

We need to advertise for a new board secretary in the newspaper, on the town website, and at the Town Hall and Post Office. **S Brown made a motion to check with the Town Administrator for posting requirements and language and post the position. The motion was seconded by N Fogg. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.**

We need to look into a new laptop for the incoming secretary. Deb Gauthier provided the one that she used for the school board for our use. D Mankus will look into options with Town Admin.

Time to start looking into summer conservation camp at our March meetings.

Minutes of the December 10th meeting were reviewed and amended (N Fogg departure time to 8:30.) **R Fogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10th meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by D Mankus. The vote was 3-0-2 in favor of the motion.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Fogg