

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2015

Present: Nate Fogg chair, Dave Mankus vice-chair, Relf Fogg, Tom Dube, Steve Brown and Dave Tinkham alternate.

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

Dave Tinkham was appointed to sit for absent member S Brown (arrived late).

➤ **Public**

None.

➤ **Consideration of Minutes 3/30/2015**

D Mankus amended page one to correct "National" to "Natural".

D Mankus made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/30/2015 as amended. The motion was seconded by D Tinkham. The vote was 4-0 it passed.

➤ **Applications**

- Wetlands non-site specific permit Hanscom Tax Map 224/01

➤ **Board Business**

Natural Resource Index Update

D Tinkham stated that he is about 75% complete with a draft and plans to have it ready for the next meeting for the Commission to review. He noted he is waiting on some further information regarding rocks and minerals and working farms.

D Mankus suggested using the soil maps for such information.

Adopt a Conservation Area

N Fogg noted that the Board of Selectmen will review the proposed program at their meeting a week from Wednesday.

Acquiring needed Conservation Easements

N Fogg stated that MMRG is moving forward with obtaining conservation easements at Union Meadows as well as two other locations.

D Tinkham questioned if the Town Forest is protected by an easement.

N Fogg replied he is not sure but would verify that and get back to them.

D Tinkham stated he also questioned other properties such as rail trails and other Town properties and if those should be listed in the inventory as Town or State owned?

D Mankus replied the inventory list is relative to Conservation land.

N Fogg noted that the map company Cartographic is able to separate the Conservation land from the Current Use parcels and he will forward the information to them to do that.

T Dube suggested that the Current Use parcels be verified that they are up to date.

D Mankus expressed his concern about Current Use land and how it is not protecting the land from being developed like Conservation land is.

D Tinkham questioned if MMRG will be looking at a cost for holding the easements and if the Conservation Commission would like him to find that out. The Commission agreed.

Gage Hill Conservation Land

N Fogg stated he has provided a copy of the letter that was sent to the Society for Protection of Forests with regards to the plan to some upgrades at the Gage Hill Conservation Land. He did receive an e-mail response that the letter would be reviewed and someone would respond to the request.

R Fogg questioned if they plan to install a culvert or a swale.

The Commission discussed installing cobbles and pitching the area to allow natural run off of the water.

N Fogg suggested they look at it when the snow melts as a group to determine a plan. He stated at this point they have discussed removing the top soil to put in some crushed gravel to expand the parking area and to remove fallen trees.

R Fogg stated he would donate 68 yards of crushed gravel for the project.

Other Business

➤ *Next Meeting*

The date for the next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

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 R Fogg. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio