

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes Draft-August 24, 2015

Present: Nate Fogg chair, Dave Mankus vice-chair, Relf Fogg (7:42 PM) Steve Brown (7:45 PM), Tom Dube (8:00 PM) and Dave Tinkham alternate.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Dave Tinkham was appointed to sit for absent member T Dube.

➤ **Public**

Donna Martin, Videographer, and Connie Twombly Board of Selectmen representative

➤ ***Consideration of Minutes 7/27/2015***

The fifth paragraph from the bottom on the last page was revised to correct the Society for Protection of NH Forests will need to provide permission to upgrade the parking lot of Gage Hill. The sixth paragraph on the same page corrected the word needed.

D Mankus made a motion to accept the minutes of July 27, 2015 as amended. The motion was seconded by D Tinkham. The vote was 3-0 it passed.

*R Fogg joined the meeting.

➤ ***Applications & Correspondence***

The Commission reviewed the following applications & correspondence:

- James/Laurie- Shoreland Impact
- Charles MacLashing Jr.-Violation
- Michael and Mary Addesa-Wetlands permit

*S Brown joined the meeting.

Board Business

Conservation Land

N Fogg updated the Commission on the inquiry to purchase .64 acres of land on Prentice Woods Road for conservation and that the Planning Board felt the Town should not purchase this parcel for conservation and should be offered to the abutters for purchase, keeping it on the Town tax role.

R Fogg made a motion to follow the Planning Board's recommendation not to purchase the .64 acres of land on Prentice Woods Road for Conservation Land. The motion was seconded by D Tinkham. The vote was 5-0 it passed.

Conservation Easements

N Fogg noted that as previously discussed at past meetings there are two properties that need Conservation Easements, the McLaughlin property and the Laurion property, and the discussion to preserve those properties in perpetuity by having Conservation Easements. He stated they had discussed the option of spending \$18,000 or more to have such done by Keith Fletcher of the MMRG or the option as advised by the Town Attorney to have the Conservation Commission hold an easement since it is Town owned property, which is the more economical option. He provided a copy of RSA 36-A: 4 that clarifies such.

S Brown stated that going with the advice of the Town Attorney seems like the more logical way to go and they should pursue that, but feels the voters should have a say in obtaining an easement.

N Fogg agreed and could forward it to the Board of Selectmen for review.

*T Dube joined the meeting. N Fogg appointed D Tinkham as alternate.

D Tinkham stated he disagrees that voter approval is needed since that part already took place when the voters voted to purchase the property for the purpose of conservation.

S Brown stated but now they are proposing restrictions and the people should have a say in that.

N Fogg stated he would only be in favor of that if it is required and he would check into if such. He believes that the easements would follow the same easement restrictions as the Barbour properties. He stated if there is a consensus of the Board to move forward with this option he will look into if a Public Hearing is needed and the intents of the purchase.

D Tinkham referred to the Warrant article from the 2005 Town Report.

The Commission agreed to move forward with the process of obtaining easements as discussed.

2016 Budget

N Fogg stated that he provided the proposed 2016 budget for review and noted there is funds in the budget for the kiosk at Gage Hill and those funds should be expended this fall for that project. He noted that unfortunately no children signed up for camp this year so those funds were not expended. He noted the budget to date is \$156,369.44 (\$85,401.29 undesignated, \$70,283.15 designated and \$685 for campership funds)

D Mankus noted in the past when they have tried to purchase the trees for Pride Day they have been sold out and questioned if they should try to purchase them early.

The Commission agreed and designated D Mankus to look into that.

T Dube stated with regards to the Secretary's budget; he suggested that she use some of the budgeted funds to do the filing and other administrative work and including helping draft the tri-fold for Gage Hill.

The Commission agreed to have the Secretary do some additional Administrative duties.

Public Comment

None.

➤ ***Next Meeting***

The date for the next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 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 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio