

Barrington Conservation Commission
April 18, 2013 7:00 PM
Barrington Public Library`

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: John Wallace, Chair
Anne Melvin
Ken Grossman

ABSENT: Peter Sandin, Alternate
Glenn Gould
Pam Failing (arrived at 8:15)

CALL TO ORDER

Barrington Conservation Commission (BCC) Chair John Wallace called the meeting of April 18, 2013 to order at 7:00.

DELEGATION OF VOTING MEMBERS Chair J. Wallace confirmed the presence of members as above.

- 1) Guests - none
- 2) Approval of minutes of April 4
Anne Melvin made a motion to accept the minutes of April 4, 2013 as amended. Ken Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of three (3) to zero (0) in favor.
- 3) Complaints - none
- 4) Old Business
 - a) BCC by laws (rules of procedure) – Ken Grossman suggested the group go through the bylaws obtained from other sources to determine what is pertinent to the BCC. This discussion will be at a future meeting.
 - b) Wetland/buffer markers (Anne) This will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - c) Village Place easement: John Wallace received an email from the developer stating that a property abutter has asked permission to place a well in the easement. The CC discussed that allowing this could harm the integrity of the easement. The consensus of the group was not to allow the well, as it is not consistent with the intent of the easement.
The BCC made plans to meet with Tracy Tarr (GZA, Geo Environmental) at the easement entrance (Route 9) on Friday, April 26th, at 4:00 to examine the easement boundaries as part of the baseline documentation for the conservation easement.
Also discussed was the easement language and the possibility of altering the language to allow tree cutting in support of environmental benefits, in particular to enhance turtle habitat. In support of this change John Wallace has contacted the lawyer involved.
 - d) George Calef: interested in protecting ~300 acres along Isinglass
The option agreement is being reviewed by Calef. Ken Grossman suggested the Calef parcel should be registered with LCHIP in advance of submitting the application.
 - e) Larenas Land (100 acres, Kelliher Rd.) No new developments

- f) Rossiter land: 3.6 acres off of Rte 202/Swains Rd., interested in selling Dave Vincent is surveying the piece. John Wallace will be contacting Mr. Rossiter prior to meeting with the selectmen.
 - g) Update trail book Anne Melvin has started work on the Stonehouse Pond trail. John Wallace mentioned that owners of parcels in current use have an option of a further reduction in taxes (20%) if the owner allows public recreational use (walking, hiking, hunting) on the parcel. It was noted that there could be pieces in current use that abut easement properties, and therefore the joining trails could be designated on trail guides as being open to the public. John Wallace has contacted Suzanne McNeil to ask if there is a list available showing current use properties.
 - h) Web site (Glenn) Marcia Gasses will be turning over the duties to Glenn Gould. The website will continue to be hosted on the current server at a cost of \$40 per month. Ken Grossman would like to discuss the issue with Glenn.
- 5) New Business
- a) Authorize BCC rep to sign Leahy deed on Friday.
Ken Grossman made a motion to have John Wallace represent the BCC and attend the closing and sign the deed for the Leahy property. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of three (3) to zero (0) in favor.
- Anne Melvin made a motion to have the BCC pay the Barrington Tax Collector the sum of \$801.55 out of the Conservation Fund to cover back taxes for the Leahy parcel. Ken Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of three (3) to zero (0) in favor.[note: this motion was made in error due to a misunderstanding; it will be undone at the next meeting]**
- b) New members? No developments
 - c) Report on "Winnie the Pooh Trail" hike on Goodwill There were 12 people in attendance and the group scouted possible stops for Winnie the Pooh sites. The next hike will be for birding, and it will be May 12, 7:00 AM, on the Warren Farm.
 - d) Selectmen request update/review of land conservation – This meeting has been postponed until May 20th.
 - e) Reports on Saving Special Places Conference, April 6 (Anne and John)
 John Wallace went to State and Federal Funding Program's Updates. John thinks it would be good to apply for Moose Plate money for the Calef property and ARM (Aquatic Resource Mitigation) money as well. He also attended Natural Strongholds for Resilience in Forested Landscape which dealt with adaptation to climate change. A third workshop covered current use. Anne Melvin shared the workshop on Regional Planning Commissions, and this led to a discussion as to whether Barrington has a Conservation Plan and if this is incorporated into the Master Plan. Another workshop Anne attended was on Restoring River and Riparian Habitat. There was a discussion about "chop and drop" and how trees in streams enhances habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Pam Failing joined the group at 8:15.**
- f) Treasurer's report - status of Stewardship fund (Pam) Pam Failing is reviewing the treasurer's report and will share the status of the Stewardship Fund at a future meeting.
 - g) Intents to cut: none
- 6) Announcements/correspondence

- a) DES: no news
- 7) Committee reports Anne Melvin brought up what transpired at the meeting of the Isinglass Committee . It was mentioned that the rights based attorney shared ideas for writing ordinances for more community control. The Isinglass Committee will focus on rights based ordinances and also work with conventional zoning ordinances.
- 8) Easements
 - a) The town's permission is needed for the NRCS to fund the SATWaSR forest management plan. John Wallace will be meeting with the Selectmen to obtain the permission. The funding will be used for work to improve the New England Cottontail habitat, and it's anticipated extra money will be used for the forest management plan.
 - b)White Crest Conservation easement deed contains errors (with Rochester)
 - c)Schulz/Carbone easement amendment
 - d)Lakeview Estates easement problems: John Wallace will consult with owner/abutter
 - e)Easement monitoring: \$2200 in town budget Chair John Wallace recused himself before this discussion, and vice chair Pam Failing took over.
Pam shared the history of how the easements have been monitored in the past.
There was discussion about the best way to pay for the easement monitoring, but it was decided that more information would be helpful before a final decision is made for a payment method.
- 9) Next scheduled meeting: May 2, 2013

Ken Grossman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of three (3) to zero (0) in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Lenzi

NOTE: THESE ARE SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES ONLY. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MEETING AUDIO IS AVAILABLE AT THE LAND USE DEPARTMENT