

MEETING MINUTES

Barrington Conservation Commission

January 8, 2015 7:00 PM

Barrington Elementary School Annex, Professional Development Center

PRESENT: John Wallace, Chairman
Ken Grossman
Anne Melvin
Marika Wilde, Alternate
Alison Desmarais, Alternate

ABSENT: Pam Failing, Vice-chair
Fred Bussiere, Selectmen representative
Peter Sandin, Alternate
Glenn Gould, Alternate
Julia Guimond, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER

Barrington Conservation Commission (BCC) Chair John Wallace called the second meeting of January 8, 2015 to order at 7:00.

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

- 1) Guests: Dan Ayer
- 2) Approval of minutes of Dec 18(2)
Anne Melvin made a motion to accept the minutes of December 18 as amended. Alison Desmarais seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.
- 3) Complaints:
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Conservation Projects:
 - i) Calef Isinglass property – Closed, town owns! Revisit naming? George Calef requested that his father, Harlan Calef, be honored in naming the preserve. It was decided to suggest the name A. Harlan Calef Isinglass Preserve to the Selectmen.
 - ii) Brookwood Shores property There are no new developments.

- iii) Renna property – funding applications have gone out, \$1000 received from Oyster River Watershed Association, \$4000 from Fields Pond Foundation, \$8000 from Bafflin Foundation; Portsmouth will not help John is waiting to hear from Madbury.
- iv) Monfet property – purchase is complete, town owns
- v) Cook property. John will try to connect Peter Cook with someone from Conservation Real Estate.
- b) SATWaSR habitat improvement: Basic clearing for the rabbit habitat is finished, but the crew wasn't able to complete thinning areas. A small area has been cleared for parking, but more work will be required to finish the parking area.
- c) Warrant article about increasing amount of Land Use Change Tax that goes to conservation fund

Ken shared the work he has done on the proposed warrant article, and submitted the following: "To see if the Town will vote change the amount of Land Use Change Tax revenues to be deposited into the Conservation Fund pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 (II) from 50% of all such revenues to 75% of all such revenues?" Ken reviewed the process for presenting the warrant article to the town.

Anne Melvin made a motion to endorse the proposed warrant article as presented by Ken. Marika Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.

- d) Goals for 2015 –
 - i) conservation plan:
 - ii) proposed changes to zoning, subdivision, etc.
 - (1) Recommendations about wetland buffers
 - (2) Aquifer overlay district
 - iii) Access/parking for SATWaSR from Route 125
 - iv) Involvement with conservation education in the town, specifically related to working with the schools

5) New Business:

- a) Selectmen voted to accept the Cullen Woods open space on the condition that the Con Com recommend such action.

Anne Melvin made a motion to recommend that the town accept the Cullen Woods open space. Ken Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.

- b) Warrant Article 21, concerning reclassifying class 6 portion of Town Farm Rd. to a class A trail. Do we want to take a position? There was discussion about the placement of the parking area. The current plan is to leave Town Farm Road open as a class 5 road past the house property and cemetery, and beyond this it would

be designated as a class A trail which could be closed to motor vehicles. The parking area to be constructed would be at the end of the class 5 portion of the road.

Ken Grossman made a motion to support the proposed warrant article (21) as written. Alison Desmarais seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.

c) Planning Board

i) Warrant articles revising permitted uses in a wetland buffer. Do we want to take a position?

There was discussion about the purpose of this change allowing sheds in the wetland buffer.

Anne Melvin made a motion to have a memo stating the Conservation Commission is in opposition to the proposed change. Alison Desmarais seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.

Ken will write a memo to the Planning Board stating “the Conservation Commission has deep concerns about the proposed zoning ordinance with respect to wetlands and their buffers. We feel it represents an incremental watering down of our protection of these valuable natural resources.”

ii) Gerrior revision: [268-1& Additional Lots -GR-13-SUB \(Gerrior Lane Trust\)](#). Request by applicant to present a Section 9.6 application for Special Permit for Construction in wetland buffer, Subdivide and create 10 lots, construct approximately 990LF of roadway, a shared driveway and realign a portion of Saint Matthews Drive located on Gerrior Lane and Saint Matthews Drive (Map 268, Lots 1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5). \$1000 still owed to stewardship fund. This will be continued.

d) Report on NHACC annual meeting (Anne, Marika, John)

Marika attended a conference on farm friendly easements. It was noted that it's difficult to find farmers to carry on farming when land with an agricultural easement is sold. The overall theme of the conference was how to get young people involved in conservation, and as part of this Anne attended a workshop on project based education in schools. The BCC discussed how to involve the Barrington schools in conservation. John attended a workshop on trail building, and he came away with some ideas of what should be thought about when designing trails.

e) Moonlit snowshoe – 1/31 or 2/1? John thought it best to hold a walk on a weekend night.

f) Treasurer's report (Pam)

6) Other committees: Trails Committee, BRANCH, IRLAC, ORLAC

- 7) Easements The SPNHF monitoring report on the Chase easement is done and no problems were found.
- 8) Next scheduled meeting: Jan 22
Alison Desmarais made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) 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