

MEETING MINUTES

Barrington Conservation Commission

May 7, 2015 7:00 PM

Barrington Elementary School Annex, Professional Development Center

PRESENT: John Wallace, Chairman
Pam Failing, Vice-chair
Marika Wilde
Susan Gaudiello, Selectmen representative
Anne Melvin
Alison Desmarais, Alternate

ABSENT: Ken Grossman
Glenn Gould, Alternate
Peter Sandin, Alternate
Julia Guimond, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

- 1) Sightings The group shared sightings of spring flora and fauna.
- 2) Guests: Jack Bingham, Seacoast Energy: leasing of town land for solar installations

Jack reviewed the anticipated placement of the solar panels and explained how the power produced would supplement the town's energy needs. The system would be connecting to four of the town's meters and is expected to provide 60-70% of the town's infrastructure electric bill. The plan is to have the system produce excess power, with the town getting a rebate for the excess produced. The panels, located at the recycling center and safety building, would be placed on the ground in order to allow for snow removal. Jack mentioned that a follow up to the solar installation should be measures for energy conservation, such as replacing lights. Susan brought up the importance of supporting green energy, and stated that the Selectmen are looking carefully at energy costs, both now and anticipated in the future.

Anne Melvin made a motion for the BCC to support the proposal, and leasing of land, for the solar installations as presented. Pam Failing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0).

John will write a memo to the Selectmen stating the BCC support.

3) Approval of minutes of April 2, 16

Anne Melvin made a motion to accept the minutes of April 2 and April 16 as amended. Marika Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.

4) Complaints: Smoke St clearing and wetlands Charter Weeks had expressed concerns with some of the work being done on Smoke Street. John brought this to the attention of John Huckins, and John Wallace, Marcia, and John Huckins went to the site to assess the work. They determined that everything is okay, with proper erosion control measures being taken and no wetland violations occurring.

5) Old Business

a) Conservation Projects:

i) Renna property – closed, town now owns. Need to accept \$1000 from Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership towards project.

Susan Gaudiello made a motion to accept \$1,000 from the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership for the Renna project. Pam Failing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0).

ii) “Bumfagging Hill” project: SELT has taken over

iii) Calef Isinglass River Preserve: Need to accept \$1500 from Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership towards project.

Susan Gaudiello made a motion to accept \$1500 from Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership for transaction costs involved with the Calef Isinglass River Preserve. Marika Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor.

b) Emerald Acres (Topaz Dr.) culvert replacement project The preliminary application has gone in to the ARM fund.

c) Forest Management plan for remainder of SATWaSR. SPNHF has no RFP template, but suggested that the county forester be contacted. Alison volunteered to do a first draft of a RFP, and Pam will contact Don Quigley at UNH to see if he would be able to have a class participate in the project.

d) Need to hire Mark & Greg Messenger, who built logging road on SATWaSR to a) work on road; b) build parking lot; c) move gate. They will do it for \$3800. Pam expressed concerns with the material used on the original road

construction. It was suggested that the CC request gravel, not sand, be used for the parking lot construction. There was discussion about what should be the requirements for the above work, and it was decided that the agreement needs to be more specific on the material to be used (clean 2 inch minus crushed gravel) and the size of the parking lot. John will have a conversation with the contractors regarding the specifics and there can be further discussion at the next meeting. Pam also brought up the fact that ATVs are using the area. John has contacted Peter Cook about the ATV use coming from Tibbetts Road.

- e) Review plan to lease town land for solar power installations This was covered above.
- f) Goals for 2015
 - i) Calef 'roll-out' to public, trail work, restoration, etc.
 - ii) Involve schools – Trails Committee working on trails behind Middle School
 - g) turtle crossing It has been mentioned that there seems to be a lot of turtles on Scruton Pond Road. Susan has been receiving public input on turtle sightings, and she will send this information along to Pam who will in turn contact Fish and Game for turtle crossing signs.

6) New Business:

a) Calef Isinglass River Preserve

- i) NRCS needs to remove or replace culvert on perennial stream.

There was discussion on the culvert options that had been presented by Brooke Smart (NRCS). Pam recused herself from the vote and participated in the discussion as a citizen. It was decided that the BCC likes the arch or box culvert option the best. This may be a good alternative to restore passage, hydrology, provide management access and would also protect stream from other recreational uses preventing easement violation and enforcement issues in the future.

Susan Gaudiello made a motion that the Conservation Commission support the arch box culvert option as outlined by Brooke Smart Alison Desmarais seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor. (Alison voting for the remainder of the meeting.) John will write a note to NRCS stating support for the arch box culvert option. Pam rejoined the CC.

- ii) Estimate of \$15,000 for Calef parking area. This will be 300 yards of fill, 160 yards of gravel, renting a bulldozer and excavator. The group reviewed the plans for the parking area.

Anne Melvin made a motion to take up to \$15,000 from the conservation fund for the Calef parking area. Pam Failing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor.

- b) Leasing of town land for solar installations This was covered above.

- c) Planning Board
- d) Dredge and Fill applications
- e) New watershed maps Alison suggested a change of colors with more contrast coloring to show the different areas.
- f) Meeting reports
 - i) Saving special places (John) John shared a few facts he picked up at the meeting, such as 32% of the state is conserved in some way, but only 20 % of that (32%) is within a 20 minute drive of a town that has more than 10,000 people. That is, most of the conserved land is not easily accessible to the public. At the conference it was stated that the question for conservation might be how much water supply or farmland is protected rather than how much land is conserved. John also attended a session on easement transfers to new owners, and this was followed by a brief discussion on how this transfer is handled.
 - ii) Soils Conference (John)
- g) Treasurer's report (Pam)
- h) Legislative updates (Ken)
- 7) Announcements/correspondence:
 - a) DES:
 - b) Alison Desmarais made a motion to designate \$150 from the budget to SELT (SouthEast Land Trust) for membership. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor.**
- 8) Other committees: Trails Committee, BRANCH, IRLAC, ORLAC
- 9) Easements: White Crest done, no problems

Pam asked about the BCC authorizing John to do the easement monitoring. John recused himself. **Anne Melvin made a motion to authorize John to continue easement monitoring at the previously agreed upon rate. Alison Desmarais seconded the motion which passed with a vote of five 5-0.** John rejoined the group.
- 10) Next scheduled meeting: May 21

Items remaining on agenda, but not expected to be discussed at this meeting:

- a) Conservation Projects:
 - i) Brookwood Shores property
 - ii) Cook property
 - iii) Cullen Woods property – town has taken title to open space
- b) Goals for 2015
 - i) conservation plan:
 - ii) proposed changes to zoning, subdivision, etc.
 - (1) Recommendations about wetland buffers
 - (2) Aquifer overlay district

Anne Melvin made motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. Susan Gaudiello seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) 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