

Conservation Commission

May 4, 2017, 6:30 PM

Barrington Elementary School Conference Room, Rte. 125

PRESENT: John Wallace, Chair
Pam Failing, Vice-chair
Marika Wilde
Anne Melvin
Dan Ayer, Selectmen liaison

ABSENT: Glenn Gould, Alternate
Doug Bogen, alternate
Ken Grossman

CALL TO ORDER

Barrington Conservation Commission (BCC) Chair John Wallace called the meeting of May 4, 2017 to order at 6:30.

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

- 1) Sightings Dan reported a minnow rescue on Ten Rod Road in Rochester. A groundhog, hawks, and owls were also mentioned.
- 2) Guests
- 3) Complaints: Bud Kessler (Calef Preserve neighbor) mentioned traffic passing by his house, and asked for clarification on personnel allowed to drive onto the preserve. Pam pointed out that NRCS personnel would be driving into the area for restoration work. Dan suggested that it be posted as authorized vehicles only so that the public would not drive past the house. It was also mentioned that the gate should be locked with keys accessible to necessary people. John will talk with Brooke (NRCS) about restoration and gates.
- 4) Approval of minutes of April 20 **Anne Melvin made a motion to approve the minutes of April 20 as amended. Marika Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of four (4) to zero (0) in favor.**
- 5) Old Business
 - a) Conservation Projects:
 - i) Calef Isinglass River Preserve:
 - (1) Parking area & improvement to Town Farm Road for access to Calef Preserve The Planning Board will be reviewing plans for the parking area at the next PB meeting. It was discussed that there is poor drainage on the road, and Dan suggested a dry well for drainage. Pam presented a possible change in shape to the parking area so that the hydrology would not be changed. It was also mentioned that if Peter Cook were to put a culvert in it would be better for the road.
 - b) Revision to policy on town-owned conservation lands (John) **Pam Failing made a motion to present the public use policy of conservation lands to the Selectmen for their approval. Marika Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of four (4) to zero (0) in favor.**
 - i) Is Barrington Trail subject to permitted uses? A portion of the Barrington Trail is on town owned land, but it is not on conservation land, and John feels this would not be subject to the permitted uses. The group concurred.

- c) June 1: concerts at BES, we should have that meeting elsewhere or different date Plans are that the BCC meeting will be at the American Legion Hall.
- d) Goals for 2017
- 6) New Business:
 - a) Oyster River Culvert on Topaz Dr: will town apply for funding from New England Forests and Rivers Fund. **Pam Failing made a motion to recommend to the Selectmen that the town be the applicant for funding from the NE Forests and Rivers Fund for the Oyster River culvert project. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of four (4) to zero (0) in favor.** John did point out that the funding money comes from Eversource.
 - b) Planning Board:
 - c) ZBA: Trefethen, Stadig Lane, revised plans The BCC reviewed the plans and discussed the proximity to the lake. It was noted that it is exempt from the 75' lake setback as an existing lot of record. However, the consensus of the group is that the house and deck appear large for the lot (and larger than neighboring houses), and thus could have negative impact on the lake. John will write memos to John Huckins and the ZBA noting that a smaller footprint is called for given the size of the lot, and a smaller footprint would lessen the impact to the shoreland and minimize the side setbacks.
 - d) Reports on Saving Special Places meeting (Anne, John) Anne gave a synopsis of the workshops she attended. Anne felt that the main point she came away with is the need for regional planning using public outreach and community visioning. John will share at another meeting.
 - e) Treasurer's report (Pam) Dan reported \$466,000 in the Conservation Fund.
 - f) Legislative updates (Ken)
 - g) Other business that may come before the commission Pam shared that at the PB meeting she asked for clarification as to status of the wells on the Village Place open space. She learned that one of the two wells is capped and not to be used.
- 7) Announcements/correspondence:
 - a) DES:
 - b) SELT Bulletin
 - c) The annual bird walk will be June 3 at 7:00 am on the Barr property with a property walk following.
- 8) Other committees: Trails Committee, IRLAC, ORLAC,...
- 9) Easements: Trash problem on SATWaSR needs to be addressed.
- 10) Next scheduled meeting: May 18

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

- a) Conservation Projects:
 - i) Barr property, 58 acres, Seavey Bridge Rd.
 - ii) Stonehouse Forest
 - iii) Newsky property (map 266 lot 6), 30 acres, abuts SATWaSR to SW
- b) Goals for 2017
 - i) volunteer land stewards
 - ii) conservation education for the public (Ken)
 - iii) communication among town boards (Ken)
 - iv) trails booklet (John)
 - v) update Town Forest management plan (Ken)
 - vi) make Natural Resources Inventory more accessible (John)
 - vii) establish ties with Lakes Associations

- viii) town representative to Lamprey River LAC
- c) March 1, 2018: BES unavailable

Pam Failing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of four (4) 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.