

MEETING MINUTES

Barrington Conservation Commission

October 1, 2015 7:00 PM
Barrington Middle School Library, Rte 9

PRESENT: John Wallace, Chair
Pam Failing, Vice-Chair
Marika Wilde
Ken Grossman
Alison Desmarais, Alternate
Anne Melvin
Susan Gaudiello, Selectmen representative
Glenn Gould, Alternate

ABSENT: Peter Sandin, Alternate

CALL TO ORDER

Barrington Conservation Commission (BCC) Chair John Wallace called the meeting of October 1, 2015 to order at 7:00.

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

- 1) Sightings Many flocks of turkeys have been sighted.
- 2) Guests:
 - a) Keri Neal, Keri, of NRCS, reported that the NRCS can provide further assistance on SATWaSR with funding to do habitat work for the rabbit area. A grant (from Eversource) has been provided to purchase approximately 5,000-10,000 native trees and shrubs, which would give both cover and food for the wildlife. It was noted that these plantings are not only good for cottontails but other wildlife as well. Labor to plant the trees/shrubs would also be provided. These plantings would be spaced out over 2-3 years with the first planting taking place this coming spring. On October 9 a group intends go out to map out sites for plantings. John feels the selectmen may need to give approval. **Ken Grossman made a motion to authorize John to write a memo to the selectmen in support of the NRCS proposal. Marika Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of five (5) to zero (0) in favor. Pam recused herself from voting.**
 - b) Joe Falzone, proposed conservation subdivision (Rte 125 and Tolend Rd.)

Mr. Falzone presented plans for a conservation subdivision. The property is zoned in the highway commercial district, which does not have a provision for conservation subdivision, so a variance from the ZBA will be needed in order to do as Mr. Falzone proposes. He is making sure that the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board are comfortable with doing a conservation subdivision at this site before going to the ZBA.

Mr. Olsen, a neighbor to the proposed subdivision, was also in attendance and indicated that he was in favor of the plans as presented. This lot is approximately 102 acres with 62 acres being proposed as open space. There would be 17 house lots of 1-1.5 acres each and 3 commercial lots on Rte. 125. The BCC compared the initial conventional subdivision plans with those being presented at this meeting and noted that the current plans do a better job of protecting the natural resources on the property and are not impacting wetlands. Mr. Falzone made a point that there are no waivers involved and there are fewer curb cuts. John will send an email to Marcia letting her know that, at this time, the BCC supports the plan to make this a conservation subdivision. Should it go forward as such the commission may have further comments.

- c) Approval of minutes of September 17 **Pam Failing made a motion to accept the minutes of September 17 as amended. Ken Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor.**

3) Complaints:

4) Old Business

a) Conservation Projects:

i) Renna property: placing easement on this (and Leahy) will require town vote
John Wallace will check with John Scruton to see if the necessary warrant article has come before the selectmen for approval.

b) Emerald Acres (Topaz Dr.) Oyster River culvert replacement project: town is applicant for ARM funds- The site walk, postponed due to inclement weather, will be rescheduled.

c) Calef Isinglass River Preserve

i) Parking area & improvement to Town Farm Road for access to Calef Preserve.
Update on cost? There are no updates on this.

d) Con Com Facebook page (Glenn) Glenn is waiting to hear from John Scruton regarding the language issues for Facebook.

e) \$2706.29 in SATWaSR stewardship fund John, on behalf of the BCC, will authorize the trails committee to utilize this money for SATWaSR trail improvements.

f) Planning Board:

Site Plan, IBEW (Route 4) John took this proposal to the Oyster River

- i) Local Advisory Committee. ORLAC gave overall support to the proposal and suggested that inspection reports relating to the maintenance of the rain garden be forwarded to the Barrington building inspector to help insure that it continues to function as designed. Pam reviewed the plans for the group and commented that it shows best management practices. **Susan Gaudiello made a motion to convey to the planning board BCC support for the IBEW site proposal. Pam Failing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of six (6) to zero (0) in favor.** Pam will write a letter of support to the PB.
- g) Goals for 2015
 - i) Involve schools; BMS group hikes planned for Oct 14
 - ii) Conservation plan: This will be revisited at the next meeting.
- 5) New Business:
 - a) Terms expiring in 2016: Alison, Ken, John. Ken suggested that he become an alternate and Alison become a commissioner. John will write a letter to John Scruton and the town clerk indicating that he will serve for another term and Ken and Alison will switch roles.
 - b) Planning Board:
 - c) NHACC meeting Nov. 7 John, and possibly others, will be attending.
 - d) Amending/terminating conservation easements (Marika) The importance of monitoring The majority of easements in town are monitored every year, but at this time some easements are monitored every two years, and there was discussion of whether this monitoring should be done more often. Susan said as long as no problems (dumping, illegal activities) are found, it does not seem necessary to monitor more frequently, and John indicated that our easement monitoring reports are accepted as complete and timely by Steve Walker at the state level. It was decided that the current time schedule with monitoring is acceptable.
 - e) Town Common submissions Marika sent in two articles which are in the current issue.
 - f) Calef property: what do we want to allow? At this time there is no prohibition on ATV use. The group discussed the pros and cons of limiting certain uses. Fish and Game would have input on the Calef property and it was acknowledged that what's permitted might be different for different properties. Pam or Alison will contact Fish and Game to find out what their policy is regarding hunting/trapping. Pam will send out a rough draft of usage and this will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - g) SATWaSR Gate policy in need of change and/or enforcement- John's understanding was that the gates would be open in the winter for snowmobile passage and closed at other times. John will recommend to the Selectmen and Peter Cook that the BCC be in charge of opening and closing the gates and that boulders be put to the sides of the gate to prevent unauthorized vehicular access

when the gates are closed. John will contact the Snow Goers club for input as to their schedule for use. Also, it will be proposed that a new gate be constructed at the access from the power line (Route 125 entrance).

- h) Dredge and Fill applications none
 - i) Treasurer's report (Pam) - This will be covered at a later meeting.
 - j) Legislative updates (Ken)
- 6) Announcements/correspondence:
- a) DES:
- 7) Other committees: Trails Committee, IRLAC, ORLAC
- 8) Easements: Newhall monitored
- 9) Next scheduled meeting: October 15

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

- a) Conservation Projects:
 - i) "Bumfagging Hill" project (~1500 acres around Marsh Rd.)
 - ii) Barr property, 58 acres, Seavey Bridge Rd.
 - iii) Cook property
 - iv) Cullen Woods property – town has taken title to open space
- b) Goals for 2015
 - i) Calef 'roll-out' to public, trail work, restoration, etc.
 - ii) Proposed changes to zoning, subdivision, etc. (Ken)
 - (1) Recommendations about wetland buffers
 - (2) Aquifer overlay district

Ken Grossman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00. 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.