

Conservation Commission Meeting Town of Brookfield Minutes of 7 January 09

The meeting was called to order at 4:08PM

Present: Doug Vanderpool, Dick Peckham, Sang Curtis, John Nelson, Tom Giguere, Jennifer Mckown, and Craig Evans.

Absent: Lynn Kirby, Marilyn Bushman, and Gerald Ciccarone.

1. Public Comments: None

2. Doug so moved that the minutes of the December 3, 2008 be accepted as read. Jennifer seconded the minutes as stated.

Old Business

3. Scenic Signs: John will check with Eddie Nason about the status of the two remaining scenic road signs and get an update for the next meeting.

4. Conservation Fund: The warrant article to establish a Conservation Fund for Brookfield along with the warrant article to fund the Conservation Fund thru the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) was discussed. This fund could also accept donations from private donors interested in land conservation in Brookfield. One of the key issues here is how much this will cost taxpayers. In order to do this, let us examine three examples. Example one, taxes would amount to .0441 cents per \$1,000 of property value if the full \$5,000 cap were to be deposited into the Conservation Fund. Example two, taxes would amount to \$4.41 cents per \$100,000 of property value if the full \$5,000 cap were to be deposited into the Conservation Fund. Example three, taxes would amount to \$8.82 per \$200,000 of property value if the full \$5,000 cap were to be deposited into the Conservation Fund. How do we get people aware of the warrant article? Dick suggested that mailings might be the best way to get information about the warrant articles. Craig Evans stated that 3 Feb. 09 is the deadline for petitioned warrant articles in order that they be presented at the town meeting. Dick reminded the commission that copies of the warrant articles be presented to the Selectmen at their next meeting. Dick also addressed the necessity of clarifying the articles at the town meeting. Why adopt these warrant articles now? – Tom stated that this adds to the land value.

5. In order to establish a quorum, Tom Giguere was upgraded from alternate to regular voting member in place of Lynn Kirby.

6. “John made a motion to accept the petitioned warrant article, “To see if the town of Brookfield will vote to establish a conservation fund account as authorized by RSA 36-A:5, with the fund being held by the municipal treasurer as authorized by RSA 41:21.” This was seconded by Doug. All members gave an aye to the resolution however Dick abstained.

7. "Tom made a motion to see if the town of Brookfield will vote to deposit 100% of the revenues capped at \$5,000 collected pursuant to RSA 79-A (The land use change act)." These revenues collected would be part of the conservation fund in accordance with RSA 36-A: 5 as authorized by RSA 79-A: 25. John seconded the motion. All members gave an aye to the resolution however Dick abstained.
8. Sang explained that for a property value of \$200,000 one would be obligated to pay only \$8 dollars in taxes for targeting lands for conservation if and only if the full \$5,000 cap were to be deposited into the designated Conservation Fund.
9. Copies have been made of the Revised Shoreline Protection Act and will be distributed to Kingswood Lake residents through the President of the Lake Association, Bridget Mellow, in spring.
10. There was discussion of sending the letter to the abutters of the Lavender conservation easement. This will be pursued after the work on the warrant articles.

New Business

1. Selectmen Report: Craig Evans presented the idea of a Heritage Commission which would inventory historical cultural sites and include a Home Week to coincide with Farm Day.
2. Planning Board: Dick Peckham mentioned that a finalized map pertaining to Senate Bill 342 will be presented to the Selectmen in addition to 9 related articles. Three other amendments were discussed as follows:
 - a. Energy from small windmills
 - b. Wood lots & private use
 - c. Detached dwelling units and accessory dwelling units
3. Other Business: Doug Vanderpool made a motion to use some of the \$127 in the Conservation Budget for mailing information to Brookfield townspeople regarding the warrant articles as presented in the Conservation Fund.
4. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4 February 2009 at 4:00 PM.
5. Meeting was terminated at 5:50 PM.

Submitted by John Nelson, Vice Chair