



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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Approved: 02/11/2013

Conservation Commission Minutes **Monday, January 28, 2013**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by member Alan Chaney
Members present: Bill Moeller, Juan Amodei and Judy Larter
Members absent: Leah Basbanes, Marilyn Pike and Jeff Haight
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall– 511 Main Street-lower level– Grange Room

Life Scout Daniel Faubel – Eagle Project

Daniel attended the meeting to inquire about possible Eagle Scout projects. Currently, he does not have a plan and was wondering if the Commission had a list of projects for him to review. Members ran through a list of ideas and encouraged Daniel to also come up with some concepts himself. He will come back when he's decided on a project.

Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2013

Juan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, as submitted, from the January 14th meeting. Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Review and/or Sign Bills

None

Review and/or Sign Payroll

The Secretary's payroll slip was signed.

30 Acre Lewis Property – Hall Street

The Secretary told the Commission that Attorney Larkin had determined that the use of timber-cutting funds from Spaulding Proctor Reservation could be used towards an appraisal for the Lewis property as long as the Commission deems the acquisition of the parcel to be important for the protection and improvement of the Spaulding-Proctor Reservation, and if the appraisal is legally necessary in the process of acquiring the land." Judy moved that the Conservation Commission determine that acquiring the Lewis parcel will serve to protect and improve the Spaulding-Proctor Reservation and that it is legally necessary for us to have an appraisal because we are going to rely on a Self Help grant and that all things considered, we believe that there is a reasonable likelihood of success. Bill 2nd the motion adding that the Lewis property is hydrologically important to Spaulding Proctor. Motion passed unanimously.

The Secretary said that she had contacted Jonathan Avery from Avery Associates who estimated that an appraisal would be about \$4,000 and take up to six weeks. This



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appraisal is needed in order to apply for a self help (LAND) grant from the state. Judy made a motion to hire Jonathan Avery for the appraisal for the 30 acre Lewis property. Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The Commission asked the secretary to notify the owner(s) of the property that an appraisal will be conducted in the next few weeks.

The Secretary told members that she had received two checks for $\frac{3}{4}$ down deposits for the timber cuts on Town Forest and Spaulding Proctor sites.

Messier Property Donation – Lower Dam Way

Alan said that Joe Drummey contacted Town Counsel Rich Larkin after receiving Rich's e-mail, which was in response to Mr. Drummey's initial inquiry about transferring .197 acres to the Town. The property is owned by his mother Harriet Messier. Rich will discuss with the Board of Selectmen deeding the property to the Conservation Commission as the property borders the Spaulding Proctor Reservation.

Unkety Woods Preserve – Bridge Repair/Article in Lowell Sun

The article regarding the damaged foot bridge was in the Monday, January 21st edition of the Lowell Sun. Leah had previously contacted reporter Hiroko Sata to ask if she was interested in writing a piece about the increase of vandalism to town owned properties. Alan then took Hiroko and her photographer out to two sites to view the damages. The Commission's intention was to make the public aware of this problem and ask them to report anything unusual to the Police Department or the Conservation Commission. Members plan on working with the local Boy Scout Troop 28 to repair the bridge which was an Eagle Scout project.

Meeting Regarding the River Street (formally known as Pelletier) Property

Alan told members that he would like to get interested Boards/Committees together to discuss the future of the River Street (Pelletier) property. After the meeting, a site visit will be scheduled and a utilization plan of how the property will be used can be drawn up. Members of the Recreation Commission, Fire Department, School Department, Water Department and the Board of Selectmen will be invited to this meeting.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

Evan Cao – Eagle Scout Project – Foot Bridge Across Stream at Gregg Woods

Evan attended the meeting to discuss an Eagle Scout project he is proposing for the Dunstable Rural Land Trust (DRLT) property off Main Street (Gregg Woods). His power point presentation explained the steps he would take, materials to be used and showed



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pictures of the site. He said that the stream he plans on crossing had, at one time, pieces of wood crossing it. He plans on removing that wood as it is blocking the stream flow and causing erosion. He will then build a suitable foot bridge for use by walkers, runners, cross country skiers, etc. The bridge will be handicap accessible. He is suggesting 36" in width and 10' in length (no railings). The foundation will be stone/cinder block with pressure treated trusses and artificial decking. The bridge will be located at the most level area. Dave Webber is the contact for the DRLT. The project will be completed in May of 2013. The Commission told Evan that they support his project and only ask that he does not clear the streambed of debris unless the objects are man-made and leaving them is bad for the environment.

Boy Scout Will Frey was in attendance getting ideas for an Eagle Scout project.

Motion made to adjourn at 8:30pm. Motion 2nd. - Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Dunstable Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, February 11, 2013, 7:30pm at the Dunstable Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary
Dunstable Conservation Commission