



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
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Conservation Commission Minutes Monday, August 13, 2018

Approved: August 27, 2018

Vice Chairman Alan Chaney called the meeting to order at 6:30pm
Members present: Juan Amodei, Leah Basbanes, Kieran Meehan and Bill Moeller
Members absent: Jeff Haight and Marilyn Pike
Meeting held: at the Dunstable Town Hall– 511 Main Street-lower level– Grange Room

Discussion on Fire Training at 91 River Street - Fire Chief Brian Rich

Chief Rich approached the Commission regarding live burn training of the structure at 91 River Street. The property, owned by the Town, is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen. Chief Rich said that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) suggested he talk with the Conservation Commission (CC) to see if a permit is required. Leah said that just a corner of the back porch is within the 200 foot Rivers Act, nothing else is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Chief Rich said he plans to have eighteen controlled fires inside the building. The remaining structure will be removed 48 hours after the burn. The Fire Department will stake hay bales 30-40 feet from the house. He will use approximately 4,000 gallons of water, most of which will turn into steam. The land is relatively flat. Leah made a motion that the Fire Chief go forward with the burn without pulling a permit on the condition that he stake hay bales as a barrier near the existing channel. Juan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes – July 23, 2018

Juan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 23 meeting, as presented. Bill 2nd the motion. - Motion passed with Leah abstaining from the vote.

Bills/Payroll

Leah made a motion to approve the membership invoice for the Nashua River Watershed Association and the Administrative Assistant's payroll. Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Report on Blanchard Hill Site Visit

The Commission discussed the site visit to Blanchard Hill. Jeff, Alan and Bill made it up to the site to see what work needs to be completed. Alan listed the tasks.

1. Mow (brush hog?) the existing open area of about an acre.
2. Trim (& herbicide?) the western slope brush and some mature trees to maintain/establish the view.
3. Smooth and seed in grass/wildflowers the existing level clearing to make a picnic area.
4. Cut back the encroaching brush on either side of the roadway up the hill and put in water bars every 30 to 40 feet.



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5. Create a parking area at the base for three cars; erect a kiosk and appropriate signage.
6. Clear and chip more of the hard pines (15-20 feet tall) to enlarge the clearing.

Alan suggested completing items 1, 2 and 4 before tackling the others. The expense will be covered using existing conservation funds. There was discussion whether one of the Boy Scouts that came before us planned to complete item #5 as an Eagle Scout project. Members talked about the need to complete additional projects and decided to discuss at the next meeting a list of projects, costs, prioritization and completion dates.

Leah brought up mowing the Stone Arch bridge area and suggested scheduling it immediately. Others agreed. Leah then made a motion to spend Conservation Funds on mowing the field at the Stone Arch Bridge. Kieran 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda

Leah made a motion to close the meeting at 7:03pm. Bill 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2018 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Administrative Assistant
Dunstable Conservation Commission