

Meeting Minutes

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

11/07/13

November 7, 2013

Present: Alan Strickland, Chair, Jeanine King, Dwight Marchetti, Shirley Green

Excused: Gary Gaudette, Phil King, Steve Schneider, Sue Hagerman

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM

September Minutes: review with a few minor changes/revisions.

Motion made by Dwight to accept September, 2013 minutes as corrected. Seconded. Passed.

Wildlife sightings: Blue Herron on upper Bicknell Brook (Shirley showed some pictures)///dead moose remains found in Smith Pond Brook (show and tell with skull at meeting).

Report on Moss field trip: Alan Strickland reported on his all day field trip with Roger Monthey, USDA, in Durham, NH. Review of information learned about mosses.

Review of Ben Kilham's talk: General consensus is that it was very well done. There was a large, mixed crowd. 150 or so people were in attendance. Discussed issue with room getting overheated and air conditioning not working. Discussion ensued about other possible talks. Alan suggested mushrooms. Sue knows someone who is an expert. Dwight suggested one about edible plants. Shirley suggested one on owls and raptors. VINS?

Update on Boys Camp Road Bridge area: There isn't a plan at the moment. Sue pointed out that it was repaired only a couple of years ago. Shirley would like to be included, as a Crystal Lake property owner, in any discussions about this issue. Alan showed a map of the area, and described the issue. He explained how he took out 300 lbs. of sand during the last major storm, bucket by bucket. Multiply that times multiple storms, and that's a lot of sand blocking one drainage ditch. A study would show that. Possible fixes were discussed. Alan asked why we don't pave it. Shirley said that the salt would be a problem. Alan asked if sand could be used. Shirley talked about the runoff into Crystal Lake from the dirt roads that have to keep being built up. She suggested Alan look at a little road near her that was paved, but which didn't resolve the problem of runoff. Dwight thinks an engineer who has had experience, knowledge, and training in these issues needs to go out there to look at the whole bridge area. He suggested we invite someone to come to a CC meeting. Further discussion involved closing the bridge, obstacles to doing that (Chief Crate said there has to be emergency access), and other solutions. Dwight doesn't think the Selectmen would go for taking out the bridge. Alan acknowledged that the bridge would need to be replaced, but that it would cost. Alan would like to pursue the idea of taking out the bridge. Sue pointed out that anything they did to replace the bridge would result in the same issues that exist now. Alan said they would need everyone on that road in agreement before going before the Select Board. There was further discussion about emergency access.

Update on survey on Map#9, Lot#45: No discussion.

Old Business:

1. Shirley Green's update on watershed study: still gathering information that will be used and also making contacts with people. This is a long process. She has gotten lots of pictures from people on the lake, and has spoken with Eric a lot. They would be willing to come to a CC meeting. She thinks a Selectman and someone from the Planning Board should attend a meeting. It's difficult to get people to attend meetings. Dwight asked about current budget, and needs for any increases. Do we have areas that are in need of increase? Alan thinks the speaker fees budget should be increased by at least \$500.

Dwight said there is no line item for speakers, and Alan said it could be under something else like education.

2. Follow up on Bicknell Forest inventory with Erhard Frost and grant: Alan suggested that funds received from any tree cutting could be used for other projects. Dwight said he didn't think it worked that way, and that the money would go into the general fund.
3. Reservoir on Maple Street: Dwight was at a Selectmen's meeting recently, and said they were thinking of selling it for liability reasons, and the fact that they have to pay taxes to the town of Canaan on it, as it is non-exempt. There are also inspection issues. Alan asked if everyone thought that the reservoir could be considered a natural resource, in which case it would need to be protected. Dwight said it is a beautiful resource, and once served its purpose as Enfield's water source. Sue will write to the Canaan Conservation Commission to ask about the status. Dwight said that if people don't follow government politics, people lose track of agreements. He talked about the salt shed being built, and how it was presented to the taxpayers. Later, people forgot about the original agreements because of changes in Board members. Shirley pointed out that Canaan now has areas, like other towns now have, that are designated as low-salt areas. Shirley pointed out that salt used to be put only on hills and curves, but now it's placed on straight roads.
4. Dwight asked if anyone was going to submit anything to the town report. Alan said they could put in information about Ben Kilham's talk, Shirley's watershed work, bird watching, the hike, old home days, and upcoming talks for next year. Alan suggested they look at UNH for speakers for various talks. Dwight mentioned the Extension Service.

Other: Sue has heard or read about other towns around Enfield mentioning forest inventory. It seems to be a thing that towns are doing. Dwight said it's probably a way to bring in money. The tax rates went up.

Other: Alan talked with Steve about the grant for the forestry management plan, who said it was more complicated than anticipated. They like to see a wide array of community support for the study. There wasn't time to get that support this year. Dwight didn't think it would be too hard to get that support. Alan brought up the dog park project, in relation to getting public support for a project.

Correspondence: None

New Business: Jim Taylor to address Commission in December? Alan will talk to him.

Next meeting will be on December 5th.

Motion made by Dwight to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Submitted by:

Shelley Geoghegan