

Conservation Commission Tuesday December 12th Meeting – Draft (6:30 pm)

Present: Shawn Hanson, Paul Melanson, James Kibler, Glenn Schrempf, Karen Ayers, Bethany McAvoy

Absent: Nancy Roka, Mary Ann Hill, , Robert Wiener, Dale Ohsberg, Bethany McAvoy

Location: Hampton Falls Town Hall

Call the meeting to order: 6:37

S. Hanson Made G. Schrempf, K. Ayers, and B. McAvoy as voting members due to the absence of some full members.

New Business:

Should we raise the LUCT Tax percentage that goes into the conservation fund?

There was quite a bit of discussion about the benefits of raising the percentage, the primary benefit is that it would allow the Conservation Commission and the Select Board to explore more conservation easements or land purchases. Most the commission is in favor of raising the rate to as high as 100%. Some concerns discussed, would the voters be in favor of 100% given some of the other expensive items the Town is facing. S. Hanson is not in favor of raising the percentage without somehow limiting the total amount that goes in the fund each year or there is some other controls on how the money is spent. None of the other members of the commission are in favor of limiting the amount per year. There was some discussion about creating a policy or procedures for how the Commission can purchase land or an easement. No motion on the matter was taken as not all full members of the commission has had a chance to discuss this topic. More discussion is in order at our upcoming meetings

How does the LUCT get assessed on land that is in Current use? S. Hanson spoke to the Tax Collector. When a building permit is issued for on a land t in current use, The building inspector will alert the Assessor. The Assessor will contact the Tax Collector who will then send a notice to land owner to pay the 10% tax on the assessed value of the land which was in current use. The land owner will have 30 days to pay the LUCT tax.

The Stoddard Conservation Commission has asked other NH Conservation Commissions to sign a letter of support for HB1343 which is a bill that Strengthens the protection of beavers mainly through better reporting.

Motion to sign the letter of support for HB1343. S. Hanson 2nd J. Kibler 5-1 in favor.

Active membership: S. Hanson will contact full time members who have not been able to attend most of the meetings and ask if they would like to become alternate members. Any full-time positions given up will be offered to alternate members.

Old Business: None

Other :

j. Kibler has agreed to write a year end summary of Conservation Commission happenings for the Town report.

Review and approval of minutes:

Motion to approve minutes of our November 10th meeting minutes as amended, S. Hanson. 2nd P. Melanson. All in favor Voted 5-0 with 1 abstention.

Motion to adjourn 8.31pm S. Hanson 2nd J. Kibler. All in favor 6-0.

Next Meeting: January 9th, 2017. 6:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by S. Hanson