

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 23, 2013 at 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL, 41 SOUTH MAIN STREET

In attendance:

Members: Ed Chamberlain (Chair), Peter Christie (Planning Board Liaison), Doug McIlroy (Vice Chair), Alan Saucier, Scribe

Alternates: James Kennedy, John Trummel

Staff: Vicki Smith

Others: See Attendance Sheet

1. CURRENT BUSINESS:

Sibley Property

Michael O'Leary represented the Owner.

Vicki Smith distributed site visit notes and Owner responses to Conservation Commission questions and comments raised at the site visit.

James Kennedy stated the need for more specifics on the drawings submitted. He also stated the extent of wetlands disturbance proposed will require State of NH DES review with a minimum impact expedited state application following Conservation Commission approval of revised plans. In lieu of another review by the full Commission, Ed Chamberlain and James Kennedy will review revised plans for approval for State of NH DES permit by notification application submission by Owner. Ed Chamberlain moved: As representatives of the Commission, James and he review revised drawings when complete. Alan seconded. The Commission voted unanimously for Ed and James to review and approve revised drawings.

League of Women Voters

The Commission members present agreed not to co-sponsor the League of Women's Voters' showing of the Northern Trespass. It was further agreed to pass on our regrets to the League and suggest the League encourage presentation and discussion of both sides of the issue.

2. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP:

Manegold Conservation Easement

Barry Shuster represented the Owners.

Conservation Commission concurred the form of the Easement is acceptable / what is the process moving forward? Barry Shuster stated he had met with Town Counsel and the Attorney General's Office to review the easement. Due to public trust issue, State needs to review the easement representing the public. The State would easily approve a boundary adjustment that involves an "even swap of land". The swap of land as currently defined in the easement is .4 acres out of the easement and .6 acres in to the easement. The Owner will pay for an appraisal of the land to be swapped. If parcels of equal value, there will be no need to involve the court and the Attorney General's office can sign off. The Town Counsel is of the opinion that the Easement will require vote at Town Meeting and, ultimately, the Selectboard will provide final approval. Alan made a motion to: Support the form of the easement and, in concept, of the proposed land swap as indicated in the Easement Plan as a starting point for an assessment of a land swap of equal value and acceptable to the Attorney General's Office. The motion was seconded by Doug McIlroy. The Commission voted unanimously to support the motion.

Ed Chamberlain presented the idea of the creation of a permanent conservation easement of the property and the organization of a Neighborhood Workday. All were in agreement that an easement should be pursued and engaging the neighbors, capitalizing on their keen interest in the property. It was agreed that the Conservation Commission should assist with the organization of a Neighborhood Workday.

Water Resource Buffers in the Hanover Zoning Ordinance

It was generally agreed this Section of the Ordinance deserves further review and discussion. It was further agreed to form a Committee to move suggested revisions to the Section forward. The Committee will commence review and discussion following State of NH DES current ongoing work on State Regulations of water bodies in respect to Town Ordinance. James and John agreed to be on the Committee to move review and discussion forward.

Balch Hill Deer Hunt

The Town Manager is seeking support from the Conservation Commission for a limited archery only deer hunt on Balch Hill property. The Commission reviewed the draft Town Application for hunt permit and suggested appropriate changes to eliminate confusion between application portion and permit portion of the document. There was general Conservation Commission support for a limited archery only deer hunt on Balch Hill property.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Conservation Commission Bylaws

The By-Laws have been reviewed by Town Counsel – no issues. A motion was made by James Kennedy to support and recommend to the Board of Selectmen to adopt the By-Laws. Alan seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to support the motion.

Consulting Forester

Jeff Smith, Licensed Consulting Forester, was selected and recommended to be hired by the Town by the selection sub-committee. The sub-committee received recommendations from the previous town consulting forester and from the county consulting forester. Jeff Smith, if hired, would become the Town's "go to" forester and would be retained to update the Town Forests Management Plan. Doug McIlroy moved to retain Jeff Smith's professional services. The motion was seconded by John. The Commission voted unanimously to retain Jeff Smith's professional services.

Appointment of New Commissioners

Peter Christie led the discussion. He stated anyone can make recommendations. Julia has a list of people of interest / people expressing interest. Once a person is recommended, that person is interviewed by the Chair of the Commission and a Selectboard member. Ed encouraged interested persons should be invited to attend a regular meeting to become familiar with the Committee's responsibilities, etc. All current members have the responsibility to cultivate new Commissioners.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Biodiversity Committee

Nothing to report.

Open Space Committee

Nothing to report.

Trails Committees

Doug McIlroy suggested a site visit be scheduled for Elm Road on Thursday, November 7 at 3:30 to review a new proposed replacement recreational path. Vicki will coordinate scheduling of meeting.

4. MINUTES:

September 5, 2013 meeting minutes of Ad Hoc By-Law Committee approved. September 9, 2013 Site Visit meeting minutes approved. September 10, 2013 Site Visit meeting minutes approved. September 11, 2013 meeting minutes approved. October 21, 2013 site visit minutes approved. James Kennedy made the motion to approve all minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed. The Commission members unanimously voted to approve all minutes cited above.

5. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

6. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Saucier, Conservation Commission Member, Scribe