

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 13, 2010

7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mike Decubellis, Andy Roeper, Pauline Ball, Sharon Slater

GUESTS: Joe Trudeau and Amber Fields

Chair Mike Decubellis told the Commission that this was an informal meeting with Joe Trudeau and Amber Fields of Preserve Land Works to discuss whether a Forest Management Plan for Putnam Pond Reservation would be a practical project. It appears that the last known forest management plan was done in the late 1970's.

Joe Trudeau, while researching for the Natural Resource Inventory project, stated that there was a stand of pine/white oak trees on the reservation which he thought was spectacular and should be protected.

M. Decubellis received a copy of the lease for this property which was given to the Town of Lyndeborough by the State. The document indicated that the 1976 lease was for 50 years with an additional 50 year extension that expires in 2035.

M. Decubellis read some of the following criteria from the lease document: land to be used for recreation, forestry and conservation; subject to flood control; must maintain insurance; installation of appropriate structures is allowed; property must be open to the public; accounting records and receipts must be available for review; usage fees to help defray operation expenses are allowed, etc.

M. Decubellis told J. Trudeau and that the Commission was seeking his advice as to whether a forest management plan would be beneficial for improving wildlife habitat.

J. Trudeau explained that Putnam Pond property (Site #8) consisted of approximately 375 acres, most of which are wetlands. He estimated that the pond's size was about 40 acres with large areas of swampland throughout the parcel. The upland acreage was not known and mostly isolated. It would be beneficial to delineate the areas of the reservation that were workable.

A. Roeper suggested doing a low impact study, using the model in a workshop and share the knowledge with other interested organizations.

J. Trudeau recommended several priorities: define the type of habitat; establish more trails (most trails lead to a higher elevation); identify the vernal pools; and identify uncommon /rare species.

M. Decubellis asked about the cost for this type of project and J. Trudeau estimated the cost to be approximately \$25 per acre for a full ecological review (between \$5000-\$7500.) He suggested a preliminary plan to inventory what was there and if it would be feasible to go forward. Amber Fields also suggested a timber inventory.

Sharon Slater questioned whether there was any other town property that could be used for timber harvesting to help defray some of the cost.

Amber Fields said that a basic inventory of the property, at this time, would be a good investment for the Town because the quality of the plan, including a resource map, would help reduce the cost of any future management plans. She also suggested completing a questionnaire which may be helpful to the Commission in trying to determine the priorities in this type of project.

J. Trudeau agreed to gather more information and present a proposal for the Commission to review at their next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 10, 2010 in Center Hall.

Pauline Ball