

MOULTONBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF May 15, 2015

The meeting started at 11:00AM. Members present: Marie Samaha, Chair, Bill Gassman, Sec., Jim Nelson (seated as regular member), Brian Sanford (seated as regular member) and Scott Bartlett (planning board liaison). There were four members of the public attending the meeting, held in the main town hall meeting room.

The primary agenda item was contract negotiations with Truslow Resource Consulting.

Discussion began about updates to the consultant's contract, to help acquire the proposed Lees Pond Preserve land for conservation. Phase 1 is complete and the new contract describes phase 2 items. There was some concern that the maps, part of phase 1, were of no better quality than the Conservation Commission either has, or can get from the town office. There was also concern that phase 2 was really made up of two sub-phases. One before and one after an agreement to buy was signed.

New language was proposed for the phase 2 contract to include more details about termination of the contract. If, for any reason, the project is canceled by the Conservation Commission, the contractor should cease work immediately, and not add charges for work done after notification, even if the actual contract termination date extends for a few weeks after notification. Another goal is to avoid post-agreement charges before an agreement is reached with the owner. The commission recognizes that some charges may be unavoidable, such as meeting grant deadlines. These will be handled on an exception basis.

An appraisal for the land is expected around the end of May, and purchase negotiations can proceed with the owner after those details are known and discussed among the Conservation Commission. It was brought up that the negotiations are far from over, and some innovative approaches to putting down a deposit may be required to complete an agreement.

A member of the public brought up the recent solicitation for donations by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust to help protect the Red Hill River Watershed, at the Leach property in Sandwich. This project targets the same watershed that contains the Lees Pond Preserve. The ConCom supports the project, but it was not clear how the ConCom could contribute funds to the project. Members of the commission and public were encouraged to make private donations as they wished.

Jim Nelson and Brian Sanford are working on a new mission statement for the Conservation Commission and reported on progress.

At 12:00 Noon, Jim Nelson moved to adjourn, seconded by Scott Bartlett and approved by all.

Respectfully submitted
Marie Samaha; Chair and Bill Gassman; Secretary