

MOULTONBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM. Members present were Marie Samaha, Chair, Bill Gassman, Secretary, Bob Patenaude, Ed Harrington, alternate Jim Nelson seated as a regular member and alternate Brian Sanford. Diana Morgan attended the meeting. She was a former ConCom member, town health officer and is an expert in hydrology.

Minutes:

The meeting opened with a review of the minutes from June 1st and special meetings in June. Bob P moved to accept the minutes of June 1 as written, Ed seconded and all approved. Then, the group reviewed the public and non-public minutes from June 9th. Ed moved to approve the public and non-public minutes as written, Jim and Bob seconded and they were approved unanimously. June 17th minutes, public and non-public were reviewed. An error was reported in who seconded the motion to adjourn. Jim had seconded the motion. Jim moved to approve the public minutes, Bob seconded and all approved. Ed and Bob moved and seconded the non-public minutes from June 17th and all approved. For June 24th, Ed moved to approve the minutes of the public minutes, Bob seconded and all approved. For the June 24th non-public session minutes, Ed was added as member present. Bob moved to accept the minutes as written, Ed seconded and they were approved unanimously.

Permits/Applications/Correspondence/Complaints:

Permits and applications were reviewed. The list was still short, as it has been recently and was mostly about dock and permit clarification issues. The NHEC permit for the solar farm will be issues by DES, now that some of the issues have been clarified.

On the topic of salt in the town garage groundwater, Diana Morgan expressed a variety of concerns about the report that the town commissioned from Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations (EGGI). The first concern was that no groundwater flow mapping had been done. Without that, the extent of the salt plume is not known. The playground well had only one standard test a few years ago, which was used by EGGI to say the salt had not gotten that far. In Diana's view, that may not still be true. There also was no testing for organic compounds, such as oil and grease, which she says tends to follow salt pollution. She also mentioned that there was no indication in the report that best practices for groundwater protection were followed. Diana volunteered to do or coordinate the inspection if desired. She questions the ability to install a data logger in the dug well, as recommended in EGGI's report, if the well is properly sealed. She noted the salt levels spike with the spring runoff, and wonders if there is salt/sand mix used on the roadway. On the topic of a reverse osmosis, Diana is concerned that the initial cost will be the start and maintenance will be very expensive. Diana agreed to write up her concerns and request a meeting with Scott K. Brian and Ed asked to participate. Marie will set up the meeting. The commission thanked her for her interest and offer to help.

Lee's Pond Preserve

- Even though there is no current activity towards procuring the property by the Conservation Commission, several members will file non-conflict of interest declarations with the BOS, so the issue is settled should if new opportunities arise.

- The ConCom has not heard back yet from Don Berry or Nick Coats about help with general fund raising. Shifting to this approach takes a lot of new activity, which will be taken slowly.
- The work on Lees Pond Preserve bought out the broader issue of Red Hill River and Shannon Brook watersheds, and the group feels it should expand its view about priorities of what to protect. The Lee's Pond Preserve property is still important. It is in a keystone location between 99% of the Red Hill River watershed and Winnepesaukee, but it is not available on terms acceptable to the Commission at this time.

CC Goals/Mission Statement

- The group went over proposed mission and vision statements. Once finalized, it will be reflected on the web site.
- The commission feels that there is a financial aspect to conservation. If the water is dirty, the tourist and second home owner interest in the town will diminish. The \$2.7 billion in town property value is driven by water quality. Even a few percentage loss of shorefront property value would be reflected in an increase in tax rate that impacts all property owners. It is cost effective to invest in local conservation.
- Ed made a motion to accept the proposed mission and vision statement. Jim seconded and all approved. The mission is: Protect and enhance Moultonborough's natural resources, in concert with community, public and private organizations. The vision is: Moultonborough citizens and visitors will value and support protecting its natural resources and wildlife.
- Jim went over a mission flowchart proposal, with categories that the commission will focus on. Bill moved to accept it as is. Ed seconded and all approved.
- It was agreed that a dedicated meeting to prioritize projects will be on the agenda of the August 3rd monthly meeting.

Other Business:

- Stewardship: Marie reviewed the stewardship process of town owned conservation property. Bill will continue to report on Loon Island, Small Island and Trails End. Brian will take over Half-Acre land and Bob will report on the Shaker Jerry properties.
- Facebook site; Bob made the motion to start a ConCom Facebook page and Ed seconded it. All agreed. Bill will create the page and all members and alternates be given write access. The public is encouraged to "like" the Moultonborough Conservation Commission" Facebook page and share articles with their friends.

Adjourn: – Ed made motion at 8:57 to adjourn the meeting, Bob seconded and all agreed.

Minutes submitted, July 13, 2015 by Bill Gassman; Secretary and Marie Samaha; Chair