

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
JANUARY 29, 2013**

PRESENT: Chair Paddy McHale, Board members Cathy Allyn and Ron Gehl, Recording Secretary Amy Smith.

Chair McHale called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Chair McHale informed Board members that Kari Lygren of Moose Mountain Regional Greenways contacted him and stated she would try to make it to the meeting but was unsure if she would be able to.

While Board members awaited the arrival of Ms. Lygren, they informed Ms. Smith of the functions and duties of the Conservation Commission.

At 7:30 pm Ms. Lygren had not yet arrived so Chair McHale gave Board members a brief update of what Ms. Lygren wished to discuss. Chair McHale stated Ms. Lygren is interested in finding out if there is an interest in working with Moose Mountain Regional Greenways to organize kayaking trips within the Town. Board members liked this idea. The other item Ms. Lygren wished to discuss was hosting a seminar, possibly in March, about the potential tax benefits home owners may accrue from putting their property in conservation easements. Ms. Allyn asked if she wanted New Durham to host the seminar. Chair McHale stated he believes so. Mr. Gehl stated the Town had a seminar a few years ago and believed it would be a good idea to hold another one. Ms. Allyn suggested holding the seminar at the Library. Board members agreed. Chair McHale stated he would get more information.

Chair McHale informed Board members he would like to get the Conservation Commission and Recreation Department on the same page regarding hiking/walking trails within the Town. Chair McHale stated he thought there may have been a liability issue but believes that can be remedied. Ms. Allyn suggested having more details of the trails such as exactly where they are and where one should park. Chair McHale suggested having someone that has walked the trails rate them similar to a guide book.

Chair McHale asked if there was any other business. Mr. Gehl updated the Board on the Hammond property conservation easement. Mr. Gehl stated right now they are in a holding pattern and are waiting for federal funding to become available.

At 7:42 pm. Ms. Allyn made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gehl seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Smith

Recording Secretary