

Poland Conservation Commission  
Minutes of 12-10-14

Members Present: Fred Huntress (co-chairperson), Don Stover (co-chairperson), John Crouch, John Laskey, Keith Messer. Absent with notification: Sue Ellis. Absent: Sandra Knowles.

Meeting called to order: 7:00pm.

Minutes of 11-12-14 were reviewed and accepted.

**Furman Property:**

The meeting opened with discussion about the favorable results at the Special Town Meeting for the town to accept/acquire the property as a donation.

**Hilt Hollow:**

Fred sent a letter to the Board of Selectman emphasizing the importance of how the property ties into the adjacent town owned properties toward the goal of retaining 125 acres of open space and undeveloped area for passive recreation and forest conservation.

There was a long discussion of the possible beneficial uses of the area to the town, during this discussion it was noted that house lots/dwellings tend to equate to a negative tax loss to the town.

The possibility of have a "Promotional Day" of the area in the spring was suggested during the discussion, it was decided to continue the discussion at January's meeting.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Budget 2015:

Fred and Don met with Brad to review proposed budget items.

Conservation holds a balance of \$1300.00 in the current 2014/15 fiscal budget, with the possible expenditure of approximately \$1000.00 for non-bridge items in the Waterhouse Park area.

A \$4500.00 CIP will be submitted for the 2015/16 for added improvements in the park area, which may include an engineering study for the possible footbridge spanning the dam sluiceway.

Town Meeting Warrants:

There was discussion of the submitting the following items as warrant articles at the 2015 Town Meeting:

The creation of a Conservation Reserve Fund to re-invest the proceeds from Tree Growth penalties for removing properties from Tree Growth status along with the Timber Sale proceeds, full or partial, from harvesting town property remain in the Conservation Reserve Fund. The funds will be used for boundary line work, timber land improvement and future conservation projects in town. This fund will be operate solely on the proceeds as discussed, without raising or appropriating tax revenue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Keith Messer