

1 **Sandown Conservation Commission**

2 **Minutes**

3 **January 9, 2014**

4
5 **Date:** January 9, 2014

6 **Place:** Sandown Town Hall

7 **Members Present:** Paul Carey – Chair, Mark Traeger, Brian Butler, Joe McKinnon,
8 Kevin Major

9 **Selectmen Liaison:** Mr. Jim Devine: Present

10 **Environmental Consultant:** Mr. Gerry Miller: Present

11 **Also Present:** Andrea Cairns – Recording Secretary

12
13 **Opening:** Mr. Carey opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

14
15 **Review of 12/19/13 Minutes**

16 **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made a motion to accept the 12/19/13 minutes as written. Mr.
17 Major seconded the motion. Members voted in favor. Mr. Devine abstained. The motion
18 passed.

19
20 **Correspondence**

21 Letter from Boy Scout Troop 268 thanking the Commission for their help on the spooky
22 walk.

23
24 Information regarding NH Speaker Series.

25
26 An email from Donna Green regarding the Sandown Roundup requesting an interview
27 with the Chairman regarding the proposed petition warrant article lowering the LUCT
28 contribution.

29
30 Check register for the Conservation Fund. The town has only received \$15,000 in
31 deposits for LUCT.

32
33 A letter from NRCS regarding easement review notes for 72 acres on the Exeter River
34 (Porter Property) and the restoration efforts to restore the stream trout by adding wood
35 debris. Mr. Carey asked if she might be interested in coming and talking to the
36 Commission about their work. Mr. Traeger will contact her. Mr. Miller explained it will
37 catch siltation and take it out of the stream. It will also provide areas for fish to spawn
38 and will also allow the stream to cool because it will be shaded.

39
40 Letter from DES regarding the fire pond on Meghan’s Way. The application was denied.
41 Mr. Traeger noted they came before the Planning Board for a CUP. The Planning Board
42 continued the hearing for 60 days and Jim Lavelle will reapply.

43
44 Mr. McKinnon asked if debris and trash in the river would be removed as part of that
45 restoration project. Mr. Traeger noted that near Wells Village Road the town received
46 some grant money to clean that area up. He noted that the river overall is pretty clean.

47 Mr. Traeger noted they could organize a river clean-up and go in and get any trash. Mr.
48 McKinnon offered to help organize a clean-up.

49

50 **2014 Goals**

51 Mr. Carey noted in the past they've discussed properties they might want to approach and
52 purchase.

53

54 Mr. Butler noted the Fishing Derby will need a new Chairperson and asked if we could
55 possibly put something on Channel 17. Mr. Traeger noted he would email Mr. Donnellen
56 to get that posted.

57

58 Mr. Butler noted his desire for a sign for the Community Garden. The only question
59 would be if someone wanted to sponsor it, could we give them recognition on the sign.

60

61 Mr. Butler also mentioned doing a Wells Village Forestry Management Plan. The Board
62 agreed they were interested in moving forward with that. Mr. Butler will put the call in to
63 Charlie Moreno and get that project moving.

64

65 Mr. Butler will bring the top 10 list of properties they are interested in acquiring to the
66 next meeting. Mr. Carey agreed that would be a good discussion. Mr. Carey noted the
67 Commission generally tries to buy abutting properties to create a greenway and connect
68 parcels together.

69

70 Mr. Traeger noted he would like to see some trails on the Porter property. He noted
71 they've been hoping for an Eagle Scout project to come forward. He noted they could
72 possibly talk to Mr. Genualdo about putting in a parking lot (paid for out of the
73 conservation fund) Mr. Butler noted that the management plan might be able to help
74 create and identify trails. Mr. Traeger just wants to see people using the property.

75

76 Mr. Major noted completion of the Drowne property trails would be his goal.

77

78 **Valentine's Day Snowshoe Walk**

79 Mr. Major ran it by the Selectmen to let them know about the event. They supported it
80 and thought it was a great idea. The Selectmen noted that Mr. Genualdo could help plow
81 the parking area and make it as big as they wanted.

82

83 Jared Magoon would like to take care of concessions to raise money for his Eagle Scout
84 project.

85

86 Mr. Major spoke with a manager at EMS in Salem about renting snowshoes. The
87 manager offered 15% off to customers that mentioned the event.

88

89 Mr. Major also spoke with Matt Rittenhouse from the *Tri Town Times* who will do a
90 story about it.

91

92 Mr. Major put together wording for a flyer and for a press release. The event will run on
93 February 14th from 7-9 p.m.. The Commission will get there early and get a bonfire
94 going. Experienced people will help lead a hike.

95

96 Mr. Traeger will drop off pallets for firewood.

97

98 Ms. Cairns will email Fred Soule to get it on the sign in front of the town hall and she
99 will also design a poster for the event.

100

101 **Petition Warrant Article**

102 Members agreed they needed to update their figures so they are for the current year and
103 spread the word and give information to the general public.

104

105 Members discussed whether to defeat it during the deliberative session or at the ballot.
106 They've done it both ways and it's worked both ways. They felt defeating it at the ballot
107 was the way to go, that way more of the public has a chance to voice their opinion.

108

109 Mr. Miller questioned if there was a new state bill that stated you couldn't change
110 anything substantially at deliberative session. Mr. Devine wasn't sure if that had gone
111 through already.

112

113 Mr. Carey noted they could present the facts and the Commission philosophy and site
114 that the master plan has "green" goals. Mr. Traeger mentioned that during the master plan
115 focus groups the priority was to keep a rural feel to the town.

116

117 Mr. Major questioned what was the total max value of all the property currently in
118 current use to find out the total potential amount of tax that could possibly remain.
119 Members discussed how to figure out that number and noted it's a difficult number to
120 predict. Mr. Butler thought maybe it could create an artificial argument because we don't
121 know the layout of the land and the true value.

122

123 Mr. Traeger will handle the school component. Mr. Butler will give the percentages of
124 conserved land in town. Mr. Carey has the information about the state component.

125

126 Members agreed they need to have factual defense in the argument.

127

128 **Trails Update**

129 Mr. Major noted that Mr. Traeger was able to get a response from Tim Peloquin
130 regarding the information he was looking for do to trails. Mr. Major is still waiting for
131 that information.

132

133 **MOTION:** Mr. Major made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Devine seconded the motion. All
134 members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. MEETING ADJOURNED at
135 8:32 p.m.

136

137 Respectfully Submitted,



138

139 Andrea Cairns