

Sandown Conservation Commission

Minutes

October 12, 2017

Date: October 12, 2017

Place: Sandown Town Hall

Members Present: Paul Carey – *Chair*, Brian Butler – *Vice Chair*, Tom Sands, Terry Knuuttenen, Pam Gaudreau, Katie Palladino

Members Absent: Jill Winmill, Mark Traeger, Kevin Major

Selectmen’s Liaison: Mr. Jon Goldman: Absent

Environmental Consultant: Bruce Gilday: Present

Review of 9/28/17 Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the 9/28/17 minutes as written. Mr. Sands seconded the motion. Members voted in favor. Mr. Knuuttenen abstained. The motion carried.

Charlie Moreno – Discussion regarding the Forestry Management Plans

Mr. Moreno noted the plan he did for Wells Village and the Hersey Road properties were funded by the federal Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). They asked him to do a baseline study and management plan with recommendations for the health of the forest.

The Wells Village Road property is a great parcel. It had not been abused in the past and has a good history of management. The previous owner did do limited timber harvesting. There are a lot of old house foundations. The property has a lot of older pines and hemlocks. Some of his recommendations will allow for new generations of trees as well as management of the Woolly Adelgid.

The Woolly Adelgid has been slow moving to the Northeast. It first made its appearance in Maryland in the 1950s. In 2012 it started to show up in Massachusetts. There has been a lot of dieback in some forests. Harvesting the trees does not change their presence or hold them back. The only thing that holds them back is very cold winters. They are not looking to eliminate all hemlocks but take out trees that aren’t healthy. Their ultimate goal is to promote diversity in the forest.

Mr. Gilday questioned what “glading” was, as it was mentioned in the report. Mr. Moreno noted it was “woodscaping.” Making certain areas present well aesthetically. Mr. Moreno added that he only suggested doing that around the old foundations and the entrance. He also suggested removing invasive species by using herbicides.

Mr. Butler questioned the safety of the herbicides given the proximity to the Exeter River. Mr. Moreno noted most of them are not near the Exeter River. The invasive species can create an environmental hazard if they aren’t controlled. Overnight they can sweep through a forest in any condition (drought, wet, shady, sunny). They should be the Boards number one priority. He suggested working with Rockingham County

46 Conservation District since they are licensed to use the herbicides and know the best time
47 of year to use them. The WRP would likely fund that work.

48

49 Mr. Butler noted he was anxious to do a timber harvest and questioned if that was
50 something that could be done this year. Mr. Moreno noted the timing may be tough to
51 pull together this year, but suggested they have the invasive work done before they do a
52 harvest. Opening up the forest with the invasives present could be a disaster. He
53 suggested a yearly maintenance plan.

54

55 Mr. Moreno indicated they could possibly do a summer timber cut on this property but
56 was reminded by Ms. Gaudreau about the restrictions of cutting in the summer because of
57 the Northern Long-Eared bat. Mr. Moreno noted they could begin in August and go
58 through November.

59

60 Mr. Moreno noted the one butternut tree in the cellar hole is unique. They are not
61 generally found in this part of the state. There is a blight that sterilizes the trees so they
62 cannot reproduce and there hasn't been anything to counteract that.

63

64 Mr. Gilday questioned if they could turn the landing sites into parking areas. Mr. Moreno
65 recommended keeping them separate so they could utilize them for future cuts.

66

67 Mr. Moreno reviewed the Hersey Road Forestry Plan. That forest is not as old as Wells
68 Village but there is good growth. There are not as many invasives present there. He
69 suggested removing some of the Beech and Hemlock to allow other growth. It's not
70 ready for a timber cut yet.

71

72 The Board thanked Mr. Moreno for his work and would follow-up with Brooke Smart
73 from NRCS about establishing a plan to eradicate the invasive species on the Wells
74 Village Road property.

75

76 **Correspondence**

77 • NH Association of Conservation Commissions dues. **MOTION:** Mr. Butler made
78 a motion to pay the dues for NHACC out of the dues line item in the budget. Ms.
79 Gaudreau seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

80

• Letter from SELT indicating they are applying for accreditation

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• Expedited Wetland Permit for the Depot Road culvert

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83 **Other Business**

84

• Ms. Gaudreau noted the garden club was looking for an update on the Liberty
85 Elm Tree. The Board still did not have any indications on why it was failing.

86

• Ms. Gaudreau wanted to explore a warrant article for wetland buffers

87

• Ms. Cairns will create a sign for the red barn to remind those using it to be
88 respectful of other's property and keep to their designated space

89

• Mr. Butler suggested they get all conservation properties marked and blazed

90

• The Board is moving into their holiday schedule and will meet November 2nd and
91 16th as well as December 14th

92

93 **MOTION:** Ms. Gaudreau made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Butler seconded the motion.

94 All members voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed. MEETING ADJOURNED

95 at approximately 8:50 p.m.

96

97 Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Cairns".

98

99 Andrea Cairns