

## **Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2015**

Present: Allison Knab, Pat Elwell, Bill Kenny, Bill McCarthy, Bob Keating, Donna Jensen. Also, Paul Deschaine, Town Administrator; Seth Hickey, Stratham Recreation; Deborah Goard, SELT; Ms Katherine Breslin, resident; Raymond Breslin, property owner

### **Public Session**

The public session was called to order at 7:00pm.

### **Mailbox: Meeting Minutes**

Pat Elwell moved and Bill McCarthy seconded a motion to approve Nov 19 meeting minutes with edits: correct typo under PREPA grant; revise language regarding 300 committee and parade in 2016; budget includes rain barrels and compost bin sales.

### **Jason Freshette (Short Property) Easement Trail Correction**

Seth Hickey from the Recreation Department discussed changes to the trails on the Short easement adjacent to the Gordon Barker Town Forrest. Add "private property" signs to discourage walkers and bicyclists from entering exclusion area; include better signage and markers for trails in general. Seth Hickey recommended closing the yellow jacket trail south of the exclusion area to eliminate a trail driveway crossing.

Pat Elwell moved and Bill McCarthy seconded a motion to write a letter to the Select Board recommending that the Recreation Department/SELT move/change the yellow jacket trail as described by Seth Hickey and Deborah Goard. Pat Elwell specified that the letter should also thank Seth Hickey for his effort on this project. The motion passed; 5 commissioners voting to approve and 1 commissioner (Bill Kenny) voting not to approve the recommendations in a letter to the Select Board.

### **Stratham Squamscott River Access**

Donna Jensen asked the commission to list the areas in Stratham where public river access was possible. River Road and Chapman's landing were identified. There are many non-public river access points to private residences and neighborhood associations.

### **RCCD Monitoring of Stratham Properties**

Pat Elwell moved and Bill McCarthy seconded a motion for the commission to continue to hire RCCD to monitor properties in 2016 as in the past. Rather than 7 properties there will be only 6, as Zarnowski property will be in easement under the SELT and thus the organization will provide monitoring. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Municipal Updates**

The planning board will be recommending zoning changes for this year's ballot during its Dec 16 meeting; public hearings will be held January 16. The final deadline for ballot items is February 2. A number of items may be considered.

1. PREPA grant wetland setback updates arising from community and committee meetings
2. Formation of an agricultural commission

3. Citizen's petitions including one for rezoning of property within the gateway back to residential/agricultural

The Town has identified final candidates for Town Planner position made vacant with the departure of Lincoln Daley. The new planner will start in January.

The Town is also looking for a new code enforcement officer-Audrey Cline is moving to another community.

#### **Conservation Commission Chair Roundtable**

Allison Knab will attend the local con com roundtable meeting next week. The topic of discussion is the New Hampshire warrant article process.

#### **Zarnowski Property**

Pat Elwell reported that Chief Scippa is investigating tree cutting on the Zarnowski property. She recalled at in 2007 then Town Planner Chuck Grassie was asked to provide a map to the police. However, it could not be confirmed whether at that time any of the adjacent property owners had been spoken with by any Town or police authorities.

At 8:31pm Pat Elwell moved and Bill Kenny seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 13, 2016 7:00pm at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Jensen, Secretary