

Conservation Commission Public Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2016

Present: Allison Knab, Bill Kenny, Bob Keating, Pat Elwell, Donna Jensen, Joe Lovejoy
Also, Town Administrator Paul Deschaine; Resident Kathleen Breslin

Public Session

The public session was called to order at 7:06pm.

Mailbox: Letter Regarding Zarnowski Property

The commission received a letter for the Southeast Land Trust's (SELT) lawyer regarding easement violations at the Zarnowski property, noted in the 2016 monitoring report (tree cutting and filling of wetlands). Since the violation was identified and an investigation was conducted, the person responsible has removed an unauthorized wetland crossing culvert. The letter asked that property boundary monuments be applied to trees by September 23.

Mailbox, SELT Zarnowski Property Monitoring

SELT surveilled the property on August 11. Knab accompanied the SELT rep on the walk.

Municipal Updates

Water Conservation

Knab that the town should be conserving water under the current severe drought. Lovejoy said that he would ask the Select Board to discontinue irrigation of lawns on municipally owned properties until the drought is over.

Elwell will write a letter to the editor of the Exeter Newsletter asking for Stratham residents to join Exeter residents in conserving water. Both towns sip ground water from the same straw.

Stratham Hill Park/Barker Town Forest Second Back Field

Earlier in September Colin Laverty presented to the Select Board on management of the second back field, which has been degraded. The field is rutted, full of weeds and shrubs.

Laverty recommended that the back field be tilled and reseeded for haying by local farmers. Individuals from the Stuart Farm have agreed to assist in these efforts.

Actions for this field's maintenance are listed on page 14 of the draft 2016 management plan. Deschaine stated that the original SHP property was donated by the Tuck family in 1906. The Noyes property was acquired in the 1970s. The Gifford property was purchased in 1990s. These properties made up the SHP, then in 2005 a portion of the property was designated the town forest.

Webinar The Evolving State of Recycling

Deschaine attended a webinar on the trends in recycling, sponsored by Republic Services. The website resource for people is located at: www.republicservices.com/recyclingreimagined.

Deschaine commented on the current state of recycling. Right now glass recycling and newspaper recycling are low, there is little demand and recycling of these items are "loss leaders." There is a huge demand for card board (the Amazon effect).

Hazardous Waste Day

This year Hazardous Waste Day will be held on October 15.

Old Business, Stratham 300th Anniversary Parade, Sunday September 25

Knab purchased the parade float banner reading, "Conserving Today for Stratham's Tomorrow". It cost \$85 (a previously authorized purchase).

The float theme is composting. Lovejoy will drop off trailer at Kenny's home.

Elwell will purchase gummy worms to distribute during the parade. She will also purchase pumpkins and plants from Rolling Green Nursery for the float.

Kenny invited participants to gather at 1 Russell Drive on Saturday September 24 at 10am to build the float. Knab will bring compost items. Kenny has compost bin. Jensen will bring tools and a bucket of compost. Keating will bring antique wheel barrow and tools.

Adjournment

Elwell moved and Keating seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 28, 7:00pm at the Stratham Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Jensen, Secretary