

WOLFEBORO CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 14, 2011

MINUTES

Members Present: Dan Coons, Chairman, Mike Hodder, Vice-Chairman, Dave Wheeler, Lenore Clark, Gail Antonucci, Ed Roundy, Members, Sarah Silk, Alternate.

Member Absent: Randy Tetreault, Member.

Staff Present: Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Chairman Coons opened the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Chairman Coons appointed Sarah Silk, Alternate, to sit in for Randy Tetreault, Member.

Consideration of Minutes

February 16, 2011

It was moved by Mike Hodder and seconded by Dave Wheeler to approve the February 16, 2011 Wolfeboro Conservation Commission minutes as submitted. Dan Coons, Mike Hodder, Dave Wheeler, Ed Roundy voted in favor. Lenore Clark, Sarah Silk abstained. The motion passed.

February 16, 2011 Nonpublic Minutes

It was moved by Ed Roundy and seconded by Dave Wheeler to approve the February 16, 2011 Wolfeboro Conservation Commission minutes as submitted. Dan Coons, Mike Hodder, Dave Wheeler, Ed Roundy voted in favor. Lenore Clark, Sarah Silk abstained. The motion passed.

Consideration of Dredge & Fill Minutes

February 16, 2011

It was moved by Ed Roundy and seconded by Dave Wheeler to approve the February 16, 2011 Wolfeboro Conservation Commission Dredge & Fill minutes as submitted. Dan Coons, Mike Hodder, Dave Wheeler, Ed Roundy voted in favor. Lenore Clark, Sarah Silk abstained. The motion passed.

Discussion Items

➤ **NH Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) membership**

Ed Roundy recommended the Commission consider other conservation minded organizations.

Dan Coons stated he left a message for the executive director to question the benefits of retaining membership however; he has not yet received a return call. He stated the organization is pro-logging and discovered there is a reduced fee (\$35) for Conservation Commissions.

The Commission tabled discussion and vote regarding payment of the NHTOA membership dues.

➤ **Erik Groves, Southern Maine Forestry**

Erik Groves stated he conducted site visits to the following lots; Brown, Trask Mountain, Willey Brook, Armory and Bill Rae Conservation Area and submitted a summary including the following information; timber, boundary lines, access and recommendations. He stated he provided a table that prioritizes the lots. He stated all the lots were cut 7-10 years ago therefore; depending upon the Commission's goals for each lot, any of the lots could be harvested.

Ed Roundy stated income is secondary to logging to improve the properties.

Erik Groves stated each harvest could be pursued in that manner; noting that more income would be produced over time. He stated each lot is justifiable for management. He reviewed his procedure for blazing.

Mike Hodder stated the principal goal is to keep the properties as is and encourage the growth of trees.

Erik Groves recommended timber harvesting every couple of years.

Dan Coons verified the Commission should think about how to manage each lot and questioned the best time to harvest.

Erik Groves stated when to harvest depends on the lot; noting the Armory and Willey Brook would be limited to harvesting during dry conditions or when frozen. He stated the silvaculture at Willey Brook is poor; noting a majority of good pine has been liquidated and now poor quality wood is growing. He stated the company doesn't hold contracts with any mills therefore; they are not beholden to anyone. He stated the company also holds a State pesticide license for forestry purposes for invasive species.

Sarah Silk questioned the cost for services.

Erik Groves replied 15% management commission of the stumpage. He stated he could possibly bill at an hourly rate if generating income is not a priority.

The Commission agreed to review the recommendations made by Erik Groves and prepare priorities for each property to determine a directive; continued discussion at the 4/11/11 meeting.

➤ **Printing of maps**

Dan Coons stated there are no updated maps of conservation lands or wildlife action plans (since 2000) and recommended producing updated color maps of such. He reviewed the costs related to such and recommended placing the maps at the library and Town Hall.

Gail Antonucci recommended placing the maps on the website.

The Commission agreed to print and post the maps at the above locations.

➤ **Bean Property**

Ed Roundy stated he wrote an informal letter to the Bean family (on behalf of the Wolfeboro-Tuftonboro Land Bank and Conservation Commission) indicating that the Land Bank and Commission are interested in the property however, the proposal cannot be met financially.

➤ **Conservation Easement on Town owned properties**

Dan Coons stated he met with Don Berry, LRCT and Jack O'Connell and Joe Carilli from the Lake Wentworth Foundation (LWF); noting both are interested in holding easements for the Commission on Town owned properties. He stated he provided a list of 7 properties; Brown lot, Trask Mountain lot, Willey Brook, Town Forest, Towns Garden, Clow lot and the Bill Rae Conservation Area. He stated Don Berry will meet with the LRCT's Board of Directors and get back to him and the representatives from the LWF will speak to their Lands Committee.

Ed Roundy questioned the expense of such.

Dan Coons stated he doesn't believe the LWF is requesting payment. He stated he spoke to Don Berry regarding the Commission holding easements on the remaining 3 parcels that comprise Sewall Woods; noting Mr. Berry's interest in such.

Mike Hodder questioned whether such would need to go on the Town Warrant.

Sarah Silk recommended the question be submitted to Town Counsel.

➤ **Goodwins Basin Sign**

Ed Roundy stated wants recognition for the purchase of the property. He stated he would look into how the Land Bank would do the signage.

➤ **Appointment of Chairman & Vice-Chairman**

It was moved by Mike Hodder and seconded by Sarah Silk to appoint Dan Coons as Chairman to the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

It was moved by Dave Wheeler and seconded by Lenore Clark to appoint Mike Hodder as Vice-Chairman to the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

➤ **Conservation Commission website**

Mike Hodder stated he bought wolfeboroconservationcommission.org and wolfeboroconservationcommission.com to supplement the Town's website and incorporate information from the Town's website; noting such is a positive way to publicize the Conservation Commission, conservation lands and the Town's natural resources. He stated he modeled the site after Tamworth's Conservation Commission website. He stated he also purchased for \$100/year a contract with Go Daddy to host the website for 3 years and eventually he would have to donate the site to the Town.

Following discussion, it was recommended to provide a link to the Pathways Committee site and to the Chamber of Commerce.

➤ **Moose Mountain Regional Greenway (MMRG)**

Dan Coons stated MMRG is hosting a Conservation Easement workshop on 3/30/11, 7 PM at the Wolfeboro Public Library; invitation included Wakefield and Brookfield. He stated he provided MMRG a list of people who attended the Commission's workshop.

Ed Roundy recommended the Commission retrieve the list of attendees from MMRG for further follow up.

Sarah Silk stated the IRS is changing their views on land owners that donate easements that abut their land; noting that such enhances their property therefore the deduction is less.

New Business

➤ **Front Bay Conservation Area**

Dan Coons stated it came to Mike Hodder's attention that a foundation exists that has grants for environmental organizations; noting Mr. Hodder submitted a proposal for improvements at the Front Bay Conservation Area (improved parking area, trail to picnic area, beautify picnic area, clearing of property including invasive species and a canoe/kayak launch. He stated it is a project that could be achieved fairly easily and become a showcase property.

Mike Hodder stated the foundation is waiting for the Commission's agreement to use the grant funding for improvements at the Front Bay Conservation Area. He stated a separate account would be necessary for the grant money.

Ed Roundy stated the priority should be to enhance the use of the property; noting the parking lot should be plowed in the winter and avoid motorized vehicle access. He stated the property should be handicap accessible.

Mike Hodder stated he is not looking to address ADA compliance issues however, if such is feasible then it should be considered.

Sarah Silk recommended the Commission ask Dave Owen if the parking lot needs to be ADA compliant if it is being upgraded or expanded. She stated the parking lot does not have to be paved to be ADA compliant.

Mike Hodder stated a Shoreland Permit would be needed if work is done within 50' of the shoreline.

The Commission agreed to move forward in securing grant money for improvements at the Front Bay Conservation Area.

➤ **Kozlovsky letter**

Dan Coons stated the Commission received a letter from Alex Kozlovsky who lives across from Goodwins Basin requesting the planting of trees on the Town's lots to create a buffer between the road and Goodwins Basin in order to make the area more private. He stated he would send a letter to Mr. Kozlovsky informing him that planting trees on those lots would be contrary to the current management of the parcels.

Old Business

➤ **Town of Milton**

Sarah Silk attended a meeting sponsored by the Milton Conservation Commission discussing placing a commercial landfill off Route 16. She stated the landfill would run 24 hours per day and consume large quantities of burnable items; noting such would disseminate recycling. She stated a greenhouse would be needed and they would be responsible for providing a minimum requirement in regard to the number of tons.

➤ **Prime Wetlands**

Dan Coons stated one Prime Wetland needs to be mapped.

- **Wetlands Ordinance**
Dan Coons informed the Commission the Wetlands Ordinance passed.
- **Bill Rae Conservation Area**
Mike Hodder informed the Commission that Mr. Friedman signed an authorization to gate the property and has requested keys to the gates.

Dredge & Fill meeting scheduled for Monday, 3/21/11 @ 5:30 PM, location TBD.

It was moved by Mike Hodder and seconded by Sarah Silk to adjourn the March 14, 2011 Wolfeboro Conservation Commission meeting. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Ann Keathley
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