

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
December 14, 2015
MINUTES**

Members Present: Dan Coons, Chairman, Lenore Clark, Vice-Chairman, Ed Roundy, Art Slocum, Jeff Marchand, Gail Antonucci, Members, Sarah Silk, Randy Tetreault, Alternates.

Members Absent: Luke Freudenberg, Selectmen's Representative and Alternate.

Staff Absent: Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Chairman Coons opened the meeting at 6:37 PM at the Wolfeboro Public Library.

**I. Consideration of Minutes
November 9, 2015 Minutes**

Corrections:

Page 1, Consideration of Dredge & Fill Minutes; change date from October 12, 2015 to October 24, 2015 (both in the heading and the motion)

It was moved by Lenore Clark and seconded by Jeff Marchand to approve the November 9, 2015 Wolfeboro Conservation Commission minutes as amended. Dan Coons, Lenore Clark, Ed Roundy, Jeff Marchand, Gail Antonucci voted in favor. Art Slocum abstained. The motion passed.

II. Discussion Items

A. Wetlands Conservation Overlay District

Dan Coons stated the Planning Board has requested the Commission review proposed changes to the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District, per Rob Houseman's memo, dated 11/12/15 (see attached).

Following review of Staff's memo, the Commission did not have an objection to the first two bullets (page 1 of the memo). However, referencing the third bullet, the Commission questioned such because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not define low values and functions of wetlands rather, the agency defines the criteria, standards and techniques used to establish a function and value for use by wetland scientists.

The Commission requested a joint work session with the Planning Board prior to making any formal recommendations regarding the proposed changes to the ordinance.

B. Fernald Properties

Dan Coons stated Knight Appraisal submitted a report noting an appraisal of \$170,000 for the three parcels (total of 187 acres).

Gail Antonucci asked if the properties are for sale.

Dan Coons stated he does not believe so. He stated he walked the parcels and noted one lot has frontage on Route 28 and two parcels have frontage on Tibbetts Road. He observed a trail network through the parcels and a marsh on the abutting properties with 3 Heron nests.

Randy Tetreault asked who the grantor is.

Dan Coons replied Barry Fernald.

Ed Roundy questioned the criteria that would be considered for the purchase of the properties.

Dan Coons replied potential wood lot, town forest, public access/trails, wildlife habitat, and water head protection of Fernald Brook. He stated the appraisal noted the parcels as having the highest quality of wildlife in NH.

Ed Roundy asked if the adjacent parcel is available.

Dan Coons replied no.

Jeff Marchand questioned whether the land is developable.

Dan Coons replied yes. He stated Keith Fletcher would be contacting Mr. Fernald to discuss the appraisal.

Ed Roundy asked if the Fernald family is interested in preserving their name.

Dan Coons replied yes.

Ed Roundy asked if any of the land is in current use at the present time.

Dan Coons stated he believes all the land is in current use.

Ed Roundy stated the Commission should express continued interest in the properties and await a response from the Fernald family.

C. Invasive Species; Front Bay Park & Towns Garden

Dan Coons stated he met with Kirk Titus, Bartlett Tree Experts, at Front Bay Park; noting Mr. Titus stated it would not be financially feasible to address the invasive species in total. He stated he and Mr. Titus discussed phasing the project and the costs associated with such; noting Mr. Titus stated he would submit a proposal and cost estimate for such.

Ed Roundy stated he walked the Towns Garden parcel last week; noting a lot of trees have been killed by the Bittersweet. He stated the Towns Garden property may be a better place to begin treatment because there are no issues with water being down gradient to the treatment area.

Lenore Clark questioned impact to the garden area.

Ed Roundy stated a professional would have to provide guidance regarding such and recommended requesting a professional develop a plan for cutting and spraying of invasive species.

Randy Tetreault stated the areas need a combination of cutting, grubbing and spraying several times.

The Commission discussed the Town's procurement policy and engaging in a pilot project. Jeff Marchand, Ed Roundy and Dan Coons volunteered to develop a square footage area for treatment and present to the Commission at the January monthly meeting. The Commission discussed contacting Urban Tree and Carroll County Landscape.

It was moved by Gail Antonucci and seconded by Ed Roundy to engage in the treatment of invasive species through the use of herbicides at Front Bay Park and Towns Garden. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

D. Conservation Commission Website

Dan Coons stated the website previously created by Mike Hodder is no longer accessible.

Jeff Marchand questioned the level of activity the website received and recommended creating a Facebook page.

Sarah Silk noted the Commission has a webpage on the Town's website.

E. Goodwins Basin Signage

Ed Roundy stated the Land Bank met today and is particularly interested in placing a sign on the Bridge Falls Path. He stated there are mixed feelings regarding the placement of a sign at the Historic Marker across the street from the property. He questioned the Commission's intent regarding the placement of a sign at both locations.

Dan Coons stated the Commission's previous vote included the placement of a sign at both locations.

Art Slocum stated some Land Bank members would like a sign placed on the actual property.

Ed Roundy stated several residents of Birch Road have observed actions/visits at the Historic Marker. He noted the purpose of the land being conserved included scenic view protection.

It was moved by Art Slocum and seconded by Jeff Marchand to locate a property sign for Goodwins Basin on the Bridge Falls Path and at the Historic Marker located across the street from the property. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Sarah Silk stated she would retrieve cost estimates for the signs from Alton Graphics.

III. Old/New Business

Stoneham Road Properties

Ed Roundy stated the Land Bank has been offered a gift of two properties located on Stoneham Road totaling 5 acres with 90' of frontage on Stoneham Road. He stated the properties are for sale at the present time; noting such provides a scenic vista.

Trask Mountain Property

Dan Coons stated there is a parcel of land for sale on Trask Mountain Road

Ed Roundy stated the parcel is contiguous to the Overall property.

IV. Informational Items

The following information items were provided to the Commission; L.I.F.E. Ministries letter of recommendation for Gabrielle Clavette, Towns Garden Intern, and NHDES Wetlands correspondence.

It was moved by Art Slocum and seconded by Gail Antonucci to adjourn the December 14, 2015 Conservation Commission meeting. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

Lee Ann Keathley

**Minutes produced from a recording of the meeting*