

Francestown Conservation Commission Minutes – Monday Feb 5, 2024

Betsy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Members in attendance: Betsy Hardwick, Robin Haubrich, Jim St. Jean, Elizabeth Hunter Lavallee, Dennis Rodier, Don Crooker, Jeff Briggs

Guests in attendance: Suzanne Nienaber and Zachary Swick from the SNHPC, Mark Schaal, Taylor Hennas from Meridian Land Services

Notice and Announcements:

The forest society provided a copy of their easement monitoring reports covering the King easement as well as the easement covering the properties in and around the old ski area.

Minutes:

The January minutes were approved without objection, as amended to clarify a reference to subdivision regulations section 5H in regards to the plan for Tax Map 9/Lots 9, 26.2, 22.1, and 23.

New Business:

Suzanne and Zachary joined the meeting via Zoom in order to review the work plan for updating the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and Conservation Plan (CP). Zachary and Suzanne started by introducing themselves. Next, a meeting date of March 7 was confirmed for the first working session with the project team at the town offices at 4:30pm. There was a short discussion about the scope of the project and prior experience of the regional planning commission working on similar efforts with other area towns. A point was made that it will very important to have timely, consolidated inputs for the revised plan from the working group members. Additionally, the team needs to ensure the results of the project create value for both the conservation commission and the public as a whole. Suzanne and Zachary left the meeting at 7:10pm.

Next, Taylor Hennas from Meridian Land Services presented an outline of a project plan on behalf of Linda and Derwin Day for Map 15, Lot 9. Mark Schaal was also in attendance as the contractor for the project. The plan is to construct a single-family home with detached garage, as well as a gazebo closer to the shoreline. The project will require a special exception from wetland setbacks. The driveway will cross steep slopes up to 25% and utilize the footprint of an existing woods road on the property. There is already an approved shorelands permit issued by the state. There is an erosion control plan prepared for the project. The commission was able to ask a number of questions regarding the erosion control approach. Taylor and Mark left the meeting at approximately 7:32pm.

Jeff made a motion for the commission to provide feedback that the plan is reasonable in regards to the erosion control strategy and the required special exceptions, and additionally to recommend the sediment and erosion control plan be reviewed by the town engineer. This was seconded by Elizabeth. The motion carried unanimously without objection. Upon further discussion, the commission will also

recommend that periodic inspections be conducted by qualified professionals during the project to ensure ongoing compliance with the plan.

The commission discussed the usefulness of having a standardized template to provide feedback on plans of various types to ensure the appropriate items are being considered. This will be a work item for a future meeting.

Elizabeth provided a brief update on the watershed study committee and their desire to add at least two new members, ideally one from Pleasant Pond and one from Scoby Pond. There are several qualified candidates being considered and the commission was able to make an additional suggestion.

Old Business:

Robin made a motion to update the previous amount of funds approved in support of Barry Wicklow's stream flow cameras to be \$1212.50, the final cost, such funds to come from the conservation fund. This was seconded by Betsy. The motion carried unanimously without objection.

Rich completed the easement monitoring for the Varnum easement. Jim will forward the prior report and assist Rich in completing the process.

The full moon hike is scheduled for Feb 24 at 7pm, leaving from Tim Coffins house on Farrington Road.

Betsy is planning to do work on the commission files Tuesday Feb 6 at 4:30pm and invited any commission members to join if they are available.

There being no other business, and no objections, Betsy adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

/Respectfully submitted by Jim St. Jean, Clerk/