

Francetown Conservation Commission

Minutes

December 7, 2020

December 7, 2020, meeting held at the Francetown Town Offices, lower level meeting room. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM, members in attendance included Don Crooker, Scot Heath, Kelly Marshall, Pam Avery, Robin Haubrich, Betsy Hardwick, and alternates Jim St.Jean & Jeff Briggs.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

- Approved 10/25 site walk minutes as amended
- Approved 11/2 minutes as amended (Petee Brook substituted for Whiting Brook)

Notices and announcements: Report from Hancock trail volunteers

- More work done on Shannon's Trail

New Business Continued:

- ZBA Applications-
 - Wright: Special Exception from Shorelands setback-
 1. At site walk November 14, 2020 it was indicated that a state shorelands permit had been applied for; Betsy reported that the application has not been filed to date; 2. the current septic is built for a 4-bedroom home and the new home will be 5 bedrooms;
 3. Scot will share with the Zoning Board the following concerns: ensure that the location of new building is not located any closer to the wetlands on the side than the existing building; that septic design should match the number of bedrooms; and will check to see if it is in the floodplain. The ZBA meeting for this property will be held on Dec. 5
 - Bellino: Variance from wetland setback-The Conservation Commission does not support proposed variance due to alternative locations available that are further from the wetlands and may meet the setbacks.
 - Another (separate) issue that was observed on the site walk was that a manmade berm of materials such as cinder blocks, wood and gravel has been constructed along the edge of the brook. This is not only on the bank of the brook but is also in a wetland. Betsy to check with DES.
- Shattuck Site Plan Review: Map 3 Lot 18-Horse Arena- observations from the sitewalk were discussed, concerns included: existing erosion; failure to maintain silt fence; evidence of underground drainage not shown on plan; concern about adequacy of design for the site conditions, and two CC members reported that a member of the Shattuck's family ushered them from southern end of pasture roadway where they were going to look at what appeared to be some erosion/siltation problem, they were told that

they needed to stay with the planning board group – leaving them with questions about the area and concerns about what might be there.

- It was agreed to submit the following Conservation Commission recommendations to the Planning Board:
 1. Strongly recommend a peer review be conducted of the erosion control plan to ensure that it is adequate for the entire developed site.. Particularly concerned due to the nature of the site and the downhill location of wetlands and streams and the extreme changes to the site that impact watershed.
 2. Ensure that all outdoor lighting conforms to the lighting ordinance; concerns about current light generator near riding ring – clearly not in compliance and should be removed from site.
 3. Recommends buffers of native evergreens be planted in a naturally appearing manner along the town road and easterly edge of interior roadway along wall by riding arena.
 4. Recommend a monitoring and maintenance plan for drainage systems/ditches be required, and some method or means to ensure that there is compliance.
 5. Clarification of number of horses on property, also if uses extend onto other lots.
 6. Recommend that Best Management Practices for horse manure treatment be followed and that this be included in requirements as well as a manure management plan, and that location of manure storage be indicated on the plan: concerns about number of horses on site; manure storage uphill from wetlands and stream/ well location. (See UNH Extensions website for more information and NRCS manual for BMP's.) Proper utilization of the manure is also important.
 7. Hay storage alternatives to the trailers that are more aesthetically appealing and more appropriate to the historic character of the neighborhood.
- Funding Request for data loggers: Trout Stream research project
 - Look to purchase the equipment to continue to support Barry Wicklow's native trout research in Frankestown. The data that has been collected has helped the FCC to attain grants in the past. Scot made the motion to expend \$1, 600 for data loggers to support data collection of headwater streams in Frankestown. Jeff seconded. All present voted in favor, no one opposed.

Old Business:

- Fisher Hill Town Forest: Pam is going to donate a section of split rail fence for the trail entrance
- Annual Easement Monitoring: Need to be completed by end of the December. Next year we may do things differently: persons assigned to each property will be responsible for initial contact, may be via letter, email or phone as most appropriate, we will discuss more at a future meeting.
- New CE land owner letters sent – Varnum was returned, need new address. Scot has new address and will notify Betsy.
- Clarkeville Road CE project closed on 10/14
- Bird blind removal was completed on 11/7 by CC members, Elders and other volunteers

Any other business: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Minutes by K. Marshall