
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – March 6, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Members present: Betsy Hardwick, Polly Freese, Kelly Marshall, Karen Fitzgerald, George Sanderson, Don Shuffleton, and Scot Heath.

Members absent: Don Crooker, BJ Carbee, Kris Holmes

Members of the public present: Robin Haubrich, Ben Haubrich, Jan Hicks, Elizabeth Hunter Lavallee, Abigail Arnold, Hannah Proctor, Martine Villalard-Bohnsack, Brad Howell, Bridget Howell, Ted Graham, Marcy Tripp, David Jonas, Isabella Britain Hill, Marsha Dixon, Pamela Avery, Kathy Byrne, Cindy St. Jean, James St. Jean

1. Public Hearing (notice posted February 23, 2017); proposed expenditure of \$7,500 from the Conservation Fund to acquire Executory Interest in the Brien Property, being 99 acres identified as Tax Map 10, Lot 10, Wilson Hill Road. Ben Haubrich made a presentation on behalf of the Frankestown Land Trust (FLT), which is purchasing the fee simple interest in the property. The property abuts the Town-owned Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area and the George Sanderson property which is encumbered by a perpetual conservation easement held by FLT. It was noted FLT has obtained grants from LCHIP, the moose plate program, and several other sources. It was noted approximately 40 acres of the property has been identified by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as habitat of statewide significance, with the balance of the property representing habitat of regional significance. Several comments were made from the audience in support of the proposal. Commission member Polly Freese commented the acquisition puts the town over 3,000 acres of conserved land, and that it has to stop someplace. Motion made by Heath, seconded by Fitzgerald, to expend \$7,500 from the Conservation Fund to acquire the Executory Interest in the Brien property. In favor: Shuffleton, Marshall, Heath, Fitzgerald, Hardwick; Opposed: Freese; Abstained: Sanderson. Motion carries. Public Hearing closed.
2. Public Hearing (notice posted February 23, 2017); Adoption of Rules of Procedure. No public input or comments were presented. Motion made by Freese, seconded by Marshall, to adopt the rules of procedure as amended (updated). Unanimous vote in favor. Motion carries. Public hearing closed.
3. Commencement of regular monthly meeting.

New Business: DES permit application-stream habitat improvements. Proposed by Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) and NH Fish and Game to conduct habitat improvements work within “Schoolhouse Brook”, on PLC property and Hardwick property. Following discussion, there was no opposition to the proposal.

Old Business:

Moonlight hike/snowshoe event scheduled for March 11 at 7:00 pm, hosted by Heath.

Seedlings for elementary school students: Following discussion, it was decided June Berry, Beech Plum, or American Plum seedlings to be acquired from the NH nursery and distributed to the students in April or May.

Education/Information Outreach: Article regarding the Moonlight hike will be in the Frankestown News. An article regarding Earth Day and the annual roadside clean-up needs to be in the paper by March 20 (Kelly volunteered to do).

Trail work in the Shattuck Pond Town Forest needs to be scheduled.

Betsy and Jamie Pike have updated the town website.

Joan Hanchett Series: Presentation on vernal pools March 31, at 6:30 pm, at the school.

Notices and Announcements:

-

Saving Special Places Conference will be in Alton this year.

DES will not offer any ARM grants in 2017.

Correspondence:

-

Brief review of mail received. Nothing significant.

Minutes:

Decision was made to defer approval of minutes until the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

(Minutes as amended and approved at April 3 meeting)