
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – April 3, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

Members present: Betsy Hardwick, Polly Freese, BJ Carbee, Kelly Marshall, George Sanderson, Don Crooker, and Scot Heath.

Members absent: Don Shuffleton, Karen Fitzgerald, Kris Holmes

Members of the public in attendance: Tom and Ann Clark (owners of property on Pleasant Pond and members of the Pleasant Pond Association).

New Business:

1. Informal presentation by Barry and Terry Tiedt, and Kevin Sweeney on their behalf. The Tiedt's are the new owners of the Ellen Hill property in which the town holds a conservation easement (CE). The owners stated they are working on a land swap with abutter Isabella Hill in order to have frontage/a point of access to Pleasant Pond Road. A preliminary plan was presented showing the location of a proposed bridge across the river and related wetland as well as repairs to the Pleasant Pond Dam. CC members informed the Tiedt's that a land swap cannot include land encumbered by the CE, that the CE terms and provisions are prohibitive of encumbered area being used for a new driveway/permanent access, and that an extensive permitting process with DES would be involved regarding the bridge and dam repairs. The Tiedt's stated they need the access for timber removal. Discussion followed regarding the allowed uses within the CE encumbered portion of the property. The Tiedt's asked what would be involved in having the CE amended, and they were directed to the State LCIP program and the Attorney General's Office. The presentation was concluded with the Tiedt's saying they would consult with DES, etc. and come back to the CC.
2. The CC was asked to consider purchasing tax map 10/lot 8-2, being an approved 10+ acre building lot located on Wilson Hill Road. After discussion it was concluded the property does not meet CC acquisition criteria and will not be pursued.
3. Invasive Plants. The CC needs to develop and implement a mapping and management strategy. Kelly stated the "hot spots" around town include the shoreline along Shattuck Pond. Plant species include Loofstrife, black swallow wart, and garlic mustard, among many others. George stated he would like his property treated. The Selectmen and Highway Dept. are reportedly working on a treatment program for the roadside knotweed.
4. Earth Day/Roadside Clean-up. Kelly wrote an article for the Francestown News, which was printed in the April 1 edition. Blue bags and gloves will be available at the town offices and library.
5. New Educational Events/Hikes.---Joan Hanchett series was rescheduled to April 7.
---It was noted Doug Cygans puts on a good invasive species workshop, and we should try to get him for a presentation in mid-to-late May, on a weeknight at 7:00 pm.
---Kelly reported attending a workshop in Lyndeborough on threats to Hemlock trees, including Hemlock Borer, Eastern Hemlock Tip blight, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The presenter, Jennifer Weimer, is available to make presentations elsewhere. It was

noted some towns are harvesting Hemlock on town properties prior to these threats taking hold, and that we should contact Ron Klemarczyk (the CC forester) about it.

Old Business:

It was noted seedlings for the elementary school students have been ordered. We don't know what species we will receive.

Education/Informational News Articles: No one has currently volunteered to write any articles.

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

Notices and Announcements:

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FLT closed on the Brien property.

Correspondence:

N/A.

Minutes:

Minutes of the March 6 meeting were approved as amended.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes as approved May 1, 2017.