

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 9, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Dot Banks, Karen Bordeau, John Earley, Dick Ayers, Mary Ahlgren, Brian Mokler, Katy Wells; Alternate and Karen Ober; Selectman's Representative

Open. At 7:02m Chair Crosby recognized a presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Minutes. Chair Crosby made a *motion* to approve the minutes of 05/12/16 with corrections, 2nd by John Earley all were in favor.

Old Business

Town owned lots

Chair discussed the use of the non-lapsing funds and the how they can be used for Town Forests. Chair stated that the money from the forestry maintenance of town owned lots goes to our forestry fund, unless voted upon by the legislative body to go to the general fund. The commission discussed putting an article on the warrant next year to designate the New Boston Road and Dr True Road lots as town forests, since they have had forestry maintenance done and are part of the bigger forestry maintenance plan of the commission as well as designated tree farms.

Selectman Ober reported that she spoke with the landowner mentioned at a previous meeting who abuts the town land on Eastman Hill Road. Selectman Ober stated that the landowner is not interested in discussions of a trail or any easement for the commission to expand the corner of the trail system onto their land.

Chair Crosby reported he spoke with Jon Martin regarding the progress on TML 25/18, the timber harvest on New Boston Road. Chair reports that the land is holding up very well and they are using brush over wet areas to minimize the impact to those areas.

Brian discussed that there has been no further information/meeting with Bill Cutillo and new owner of Hopkinson Hill land. Chair Crosby added that this company is buying lots of lots of all sizes along the I93 corridor.

Earth Day

Dot reported that the winners of the photo contest and some of their friends went picture taking with herself and Jackie Bonefide and brought pictures to show their adventure. Dot is still working on getting a digital copy of the photos from the photo contest so we have them for the BOS for possible submission into the town report.

Field and Forest Trails update

John Earley reports no update at this time. John is working on some quotes for brush hogging that will not happen until late July early August. John also stated that there is a little work that needs to be done to the purple trail. John will work on getting someone in to cut the tree that fell on the rock wall. Dick suggests contact with the WRSD for their agriculture program for some possible future trail maintenance with the students.

Mail and Correspondence

Items filed from DES.

Chair announced information received for the LRPC annual meeting, "picking our battles" invasive species information and the areas in town that need attention for buckthorn etc.

Other

Chair Crosby asked if there is any member that would like to be an alternate on the Planning Board. It was discussed that in the past the land use boards shared minutes to keep informed as to what was being done on each board. The commission discussed that we have in the past asked for a heads up to know what was going on if there was a concern with an applicant. Dick suggests writing a letter to the Planning Board that could include, whenever there is an issue that arises to notify or invite the commission, exchange of minutes, the commission discussed that two more meetings a month would be too much for a member or members of the commission, and the commission would like to be involved from the start on an application or issue that pertains to conservation issues/areas. The commission decided that involving us for lots over an acre, anything with a set aside (wetlands) or any characteristics of a parcel that had anything to do with conservation or had a conservation value would be important for the commission to be invited to a joint meeting/planning board meeting with the applicant so we are all on the same page. It was the consensus of the commission that the Planning board chair and chairs of the other land use boards agree that the direction of the town planner be what the townspeople want or the votes on these boards, committees or commission to move forward with plans for the town. Dick Ayers will work with Katy Wells to compose a letter to the Planning board with these identified areas of concerns and bring it back to the next meeting

for a vote and signature.

Chair Crosby announced that this year Old Home Day is 7/23 and the commission is sponsoring a cribbage tournament. It was discussed that the commission's booth be where the tournament takes place. It was suggested that in the future we have cribbage boards made from wood from the town forests. Chair Crosby is attending the next Old Home Day meeting and will identify where the commission will be setting up, to determine how much space we will have for our tournament and booth for our informational items.

Selectman Ober stated that on 7/16, the Library is touring local gardens to discuss and identify invasive species. Currently the Backdoor Farm, The Tobin's, the Rathjens (KREBS Farm, The Presby's and the Seller's Farm in tilton have been identified as stops on this tour.

Adjourn At 8:26 pm, Chair Crosby made a **motion** to adjourn, 2nd by Dot all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Wells; Alternate member and Secretary