**MINUTES**

**Sanbornton Conservation Commission**

**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, March 8th, 2018 at 7:00 PM

**Meeting Place:** Town Offices, 573 Sanborn Road, Sanbornton, N.H.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brad Crosby at 7:00 PM

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Dick Ayers, Doug Sarette, Mary Ahlgren, Mark Ledgard

**Minutes**

Chair Crosby made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 2/8. Dick Ayers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

1. **Reed property discussion –** Chair Crosby explained that the Board of Selectmen approved the purchase of the Reed property on Hunkins Pond Rd at their meeting on 3/7. Only one abutter was present and just asked where the property was and had no issues with it. Kyle and Jacqueline Reed accepted the Conservation Commission’s offer of $18,500 for the property. Chair Crosby recommended having the required public hearing for this purchase at the next regular Conservation Commission meeting on April 12th at 7:00. Secretary Audry Barriault will check with the Town Administrator to find out if abutters need to be noticed for this meeting. Mark Ledgard suggested getting in touch with Highway Department Director Johnny Van Tassel about keeping the right of way of this property plowed so that the public can access it in the winter. Chair Crosby stated that Attorney Christ Boldt will be preparing the deed and title abstract for this purchase. Chair Crosby asked members to think of property they would like the Commission to purchase next. Dick Ayers stated that the Commission also needs to discuss specifically what to do with the Reed property.
2. **Conservation Commission funds –** Chair Crosby explained that donations from Walter Ouellette were designated in writing for Eastman Hill trail maintenance, though Commission members were told in person by Walter Ouellette that the money could also be used for other Conservation endeavors. Chair Crosby has reached out to John Earley whose recollection of this was the same, and John Earley will get in touch with Walter Ouellette when he’s back in town the first week of April.
3. **Photo contest prizes -** The Commission discussed prizes for the photo contest at the library; which will include will include binoculars, a birdhouse kit and a subscription to a NH Fish & Game magazine.Mary Ahlgren suggested seeing if the Squam Lakes Science Center would offer a day-long internship for a winner as an additional prize. Doug Sarette and Dick Ayers will meet at the library before April 19th to discuss judging criteria as well.
4. **Town Forester contract –** Chair Crosby received an updated Town Forester Contract from the Town’s attorney that specializes in contracts. This will be distributed to members so that they can review and discuss at the next meeting. Mary Ahlgren stated that there has been a lot of work done on the contract and if this is approved then the Commission will not have to create a new one for at least five years. Doug Sarette made a motion to table this until the next meeting. Chair Brad Crosby seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

1. **Update on solar farm ZBA hearing –** Chair Crosby explained that he attended the ZBA hearing regarding the proposed solar farm on Tower Hill. He stated that the ZBA will be asking for input from the Conservation Commission about this proposal. He stated that, as it was presented, he is not opposed, and wants opinions from other members. Mary Ahlgren stated that residents were in favor of wind turbines when surveyed several years ago for the Master Plan, which shows that residents to care about renewable energy. Dick Ayers stated that he is in favor of the solar farm, as is Mark Ledgard. Doug Sarette stated that he is concerned about blocking wildlife from travelling if the solar arrays are fenced off. Chair Crosby stated that the fence will be open at the bottom to allow wildlife through, but suggested having the fence be higher in some spots to allow for larger animals to travel, or have the fence bypass itself in some areas. Doug Sarette also stated that the higher poles should not be an issue and that the area will probably be upgraded to three-phase powers in the future anyway. The next ZBA hearing regarding the solar farm is on March 27th at 7:00 at the Old Town Hall.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12th at 7:00.**

Respectfully submitted,

Audry Barriault