**MINUTES**

**Sanbornton Conservation Commission**

**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, April 12th, 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, Mary Ahlgren, Doug Sarette, Karen Bordeau, John Earley

**Minutes**

Mary Ahlgren made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 3/8. Brad Crosby seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Brad Crosby opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 to discuss the Conservation Commission’s purchase of the Reed property at Tax Map 23, Lot 6-7. He stated that any residents can ask questions or voice concerns about this purchase. Abutter Jon Sanborn was the only resident in the audience and said that he is in favor of the purchase, and asked what the Commission plans on doing with the land. Chair Crosby responded that the long-range plan is to hopefully have a wildlife viewing area on the property, and to maybe even build an educational trail that joins the Swain easement for use by Sanbornton Central School. Chair Crosby stated that the public hearing portion of this meeting will stay open for 15 minutes in case other residents show up late. He noted that the closing date for the purchase is scheduled for the end of April in Meredith, and will let members know more details once he has them.

**Old Business**

1. **Conservation Commission funds –** John Earley provided copies of the letter Walter Willett wrote to the Commission in 2012, along with a $10,000 donation, which states that these monies are to “create trails in Sanbornton, or other uses that the Commission deems appropriate”. Chair Crosby stated that he will meet with the Town Finance Officer to see how the funds have been spent so far and what is left from that donation. Chair Crosby made a motion to purchase the Library’s Squam Lakes Science Center pass for the 2018 season out of the Conservation fund. Mary Ahlgren seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Crosby will see if there are any issues with the library purchasing this and the Commission reimbursing them (since the Science Center opens soon, possibly before the next meeting).
2. **Town Forester contract –** Doug Sarette stated that he has looked at the revised Forester Contract provided by the Town Administrator and didn’t find any issues with it, and made a motion to accept this contract as written. Dick Ayers seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Crosby will let TA Katie Ambrose know that the BOS can move forward with this contract.

**New Business**

1. **Forest Maintenance Fund –** Mary Ahlgren stated that she spoke with Tim Lang about the RSA which states that a Forest Maintenance fund can only be used for that Town Forests or for abutting properties, and possibly changing this RSA. He said that he would be happy to come to a future meeting to discuss, possibly in May. Dick Ayers will speak to his contact at the Timberland Association regarding this RSA as well (RSA 31-113).
2. **Upcoming Nature Photo Contest –** Dick Ayers and Doug Sarette met at the Library to decide winners for the photo contest on April 19th. Prizes will be given to the three winners, and honorable mentions (and small prizes) will be given to the other 3 entrees as well. Karen Bordeau will be giving a program in conjunction with the contest on turkey vultures. Jessie Ahlgren will present the prizes.
3. **Conservation Commission appointments –** Chair Crosby read a letter from Brian Mokler stating that he be stepping down from the Conservation Commission. Chair Crosby recommended asking Mark Ledgard to become a full member and recruiting two alternate members. The Commission will discuss at the next meeting when Mark Ledgard is present.
4. **Logging operations in Sanbornton –** Chair Crosby explained that he has received 6 logging notices from properties in Sanbornton. Dick Ayers asked if the Conservation Commission has an obligation to inspect these at all. Chair Crosby stated that the notices are just an FYI to the Commission, and Karen Bordeau stated that if there are any concerns related to logging operations, residents should contact the Dept of Resources and Economic Development (DRED).

Dick Ayers suggested that members discuss forming a sub-committee to plan for possible Reed property projects, such as trails, a wildlife viewing area, partnership with the Winnisquam Agricultural program, etc. Chair Crosby stated that he would like to discuss this with the Swains as well, in case they would like to build trails on that easement at the same time.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday,**

Respectfully submitted,

Audry Barriault