

MINUTES

Sanbornton Conservation Commission

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, January 11th 2024 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Place: Old Town Hall, 19 Meeting House Hill Road, Sanbornton NH

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Ray Masse (via Zoom), Dave Perry, Karen Bordeau, Gail Morrison, Selectman Bob Lambert

Guests: Mark Brown, Brian LaRoche, Chris Fontenot, Bob Silvia, Anna Boudreau (via Zoom)

Chair Crosby motions to approve the draft minutes from the 11/9/23 CC meeting as submitted. Karen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

1. New Business:

a. New member Vote:

Don Noyes as the new full-time regular member (expiration 2026), Brian LaRoche (expiration 2026) and Chris Fontenot (expiration 2025) as alternates. Chair Crosby motions to accept, seconded by Dave Perry, and the motion passed unanimously. Ray remembers that Chris still needs to be approved by the Select Board, while Brian and Don are all set. Membership is now full. Bob Silvia is interested in joining when an opening is available. Brian asks about opportunities for participating without being on the board. Brad recommends joining the Trails Subcommittee, which is still in need of members.

Members that are due to renew in March 2024: Chair Crosby, Dave Perry, Gail Morrison. The process to renew includes filling out a renewal form, getting approval by the Selectboard, and being sworn-in by the town clerk.

b. Warrant Article for Swain Family Farm Easement:

Discussion about how to articulate/word a special Optional Powers Warrant to allow the CC to expend \$100K from the Land Use budget towards purchase of the easement in conjunction with LCHIP, Moose Plate grant, and NRCS funding. LRLT would be primary easement holder, with the CC as the secondary holder. The following language was preferred by board members:

"Warrant Article To Purchase Land or Conservation Easement

To see if the town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$_____ to purchase land identified on the (town) tax maps as Tax Map (lot and number); not to exceed \$100,000 to be used from (fund) balance as of (date); and that this land will be monitored by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust as the primary interest holder, with the Town conservation commission serving as executory interest holder. There is no tax impact."

Ray asks if we have a Warrant Article to approve the CC to be a secondary holder. Per Anna Boudreau, this is not necessary. Per Anna, RSA 36-a:4-a [Optional Powers], allows for a town to expend funds for contributions to qualified organizations (e.g. LRCT) when the town *will retain no interest in the property*. However, because the town will be holding an interest in the property as the executory interest holder the warrant article for the town meeting is not necessary, but the CC does have to hold a public

hearing and then go before the Selectman for approval to accept the interest in the property. The following process outlines the steps needed to take moving forward with allocating funds:

1. CC must hold a public hearing with notice (RSA 36-A:5)
2. Requires approval of Selectman to accept as executory interest (RSA 36-A:4) and to appropriate funds
3. Requires majority vote by CC members (RSA 36-A:5, II)

Anna suggests referring to the NHACC handbook for more guidance regarding the proposed language for the public hearing and BOS hearing. Ray recommends discussing further at the March meeting, as February and March are busy times for other town meetings. A public hearing date will be discussed and scheduled for April.

2. Old Business:

Town Forest Boundaries: Discussion about hiring a surveyor to delineate town property lines in relation to abutters on Taylor Road and Eastman Hill road. Brian wonders if surveying only the sections in question will help expedite the process and save money. Dave recommends having the entire property surveyed to prevent future boundary disputes with abutters. Chair Crosby will reach out to local surveyors and request quotes for both options.

If the new parking area on Taylor Road overlaps Mark Brown's property, the CC will fix the issue. There is also a complaint submitted to DES regarding possible wetland impact in that area. Chair Crosby spoke with DES and they have the issue on their agenda for discussion.

3. Other Business:

Carbon Credits: Chair Crosby brought up the Carbon Credits program, and how it might benefit the town. The program provides credits (cash) for keeping and managing wooded land. The Town owns multiple wood lots that are managed for healthy forest habitat, so this program might be worth pursuing. He provided an article for interested parties to read.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Tedeschi