

## **Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission**

15 June 2015– Minutes

### **Present:**

Members: Hiel Lindquist, Rick Brackett, Dorothy Zug, Barbara Green, Paul Kotila, chair

**Absent:** Cheryl Norskey, Mandy Exel (Resigning)

**Guests:** Paul Grasewicz

### **Review of Minutes 20 April & 18 May 2015:**

April minutes approved as submitted. May minutes approved as amended. ALL IN FAVOR

### **Widow Gage & Katie Metzger TF easements Monadnock Conservancy invoices:**

Kotila proposed a MOTION to approve paying the Monadnock Conservancy \$2,593 to cover the addition of the Menard property to the Widow Gage conservation easement, plus \$10,188 for the implementation of a conservation easement on the southern half of the Katie Metzger Town Forest, for a total of \$12,781.

Zug SECONDED, Brackett abstained. MOTION APPROVED.

Kotila will submit the invoices to selectmen.

### **Discussion of Metzger TF Stewardship Plan:**

Last week Brackett and Kotila met with Cheshire County Forester, Steve Roberge about the plan, the RFP, and our town goals. He agreed that the plan we received does not mesh well with the goals we presented, but it has a solid structure. It appears there is currently no hierarchy for a leadership role in Bay State Forestry Service. Roberge provided contacts and suggestions on how to get the plan improved. It is not unusual to go with another forester for actual management. Another forester could inventory special places for the trails to visit, etc. He also suggested we contact one of the foresters listed on Bay State's website. Kotila has tried but has not been able to make direct contact yet. He will explain our dissatisfaction with the plan and why we don't want to work with Radlof. We have not yet paid the bill.

Members discussed various concerns including the scale and timing of the project, future entry points, and what issues should be addressed now.

Buffers could be designated but that limits the harvest. We could consider it a demo property to show different management techniques and options, in order to raise awareness of ideal standards. Such educational goals are not mentioned in the plan.

Brackett said the company is a co-operative, but each forester has his own clients, etc.

Radlof was to have assisted Dan Cyr, who passed away suddenly, leaving no backup.

Kotila is not recommending that we pay for the work submitted by Radlof.

### **Meet with Selectmen: 7:30 p.m.:**

The Board arrived at 7:40 p.m.. Susan Silverman, Nancy Carney, Chris Holman, Debbie Favreau, and new Town secretary, Sheryl White attended. The selectmen reported that

they have a proposal for the Prime Wetlands project from Rick Van de Poll (of Ecosystem Management Consultants). They also sent an RFP to Jeff Littleton of Moosewood Ecological LLC and to Mark West, of West Environmental. Today was the deadline for responses but they will wait until tomorrow. They'll get us a copy of what they have received. Holman thinks we should move ahead on this project.

Kotila disagreed, noting that Van de Poll has only made a presentation to the selectmen. Favreau said we should call Littleton.

Lindquist suggested that the Board be clear on whether they are hiring a company or an individual, based on our experience with the KMTF forestry plan. Make sure if that person can't do the project, you're not on the hook.

Selectmen said they need a volunteer to work on the wetlands study. It would be an ad hoc, as needed, position. Kotila declined and recommended Brackett but no one came forward. The Commission will ponder it.

### **Meet with Paul Grasewicz: 8:00 p.m.**

Brackett excused himself as he needed to leave early.

Grasewicz presented a map of the proposed Hodgkins project at 99 Howeville Rd. The owners want to dismantle and remove a camp on Laurel Lake, next to Fleur de Lis camp. Water runs under the camp into a brook. They want to build a permanent home. They met with the Planning Board, who suggested the Cons Comm look at it. The whole thing is in the WPOD except for the septic tank, which is right in the wetland but is raised. They would also have to extend the leach field. The footprint is 1630 sq. ft.

Zug asked what do the dam safety people say? It doesn't seem logical to have overflow from a dam going somewhere other than over the dam.

Grasewicz said that would be difficult to change, as the water never gets high enough to go over the dam. Fleur De Lis owns the dam.

Perhaps the dam should be inspected?

The lake level doesn't fluctuate much. The garage will be on a slab. The area is wooded with a path to the camp. Grasewicz will flag the project area for us to see. The Commission tentatively scheduled a site walk there for Thursday, June 18, at 9 a.m. Sable will send confirmation to Grasewicz, and c.c. Sandra at the Land Use office.

A discussion followed: It is sad we can't do more than make a recommendation. It's good to get rid of the existing structure but better to not create more runoff.

Gravel driveways become impermeable, noted Kotila.

Green added that the Laurel Lake monitor's report is available to go on the new Town website, which is up and running. More links are online at the DES VLAP program. Also, Debbie Favreau has four updated digital trail maps.

### **Prime Wetlands Project Status:**

See meeting notes above. Discussion: What happened to the list of qualified people?

**Gas Pipeline Update:**

Members noted that scoping meetings are the main focus now, so things appear quiet. KM seems to need more customers to tap in. There have been problems with Berkshire Gas and lawsuits are being threatened. It seems that Liberty Utilities is the only one signed on so far, and KM dropped another spur that was going to Worcester. KM is running into problems getting long term sign-ups by utilities.

**Open Space Committee – Updates:**

No new info.

**Site Walk Reports:**

None.

**Budget Reports:**

\$313.94 expended from 3/19/15-6/15/15

Payroll to date: \$444.48

**Planning Board:**

No new reports

**Other Business:**

None

**Correspondence:**

Memo, Debbie Favreau – announcing new town secretary, Sheryl White; Monadnock Conservancy newsletter; DES Drinking Water & Groundwater newsletter; Letter, DES, re wetlands complaint, 693 Templeton Tpke. No violations found but case could be reopened.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Next meeting: July 20, 2015

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Sable, Secretary