

Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission

19 Oct 2015– Minutes

Present:

Members:, Dorothy Zug, Barbara Green, Paul Kotila, chair, Hiel Lindquist, Cheryl Norskey

Absent: Rick Brackett

Guests: Stephanie Scherr

Review Minutes of 21 Sept. 2015:

Approved as amended. ALL IN FAVOR

Agenda Review:

Discussion of Metzger TF Stewardship Plan:

Nothing new was reported. Kotila apologized for being behind on this project but will try to catch up.

The boundary issue appears resolved according to our recommendations.

Prime Wetlands Project Status:

Nothing new reported.

Gas Pipeline Update:

The meeting at FPU was well attended. A large assembly of children had impact. One hundred percent of those who spoke were opposed. This was the last official FERC hearing. Next is the draft environmental impact statement from FERC.

Lindquist asked for any information about a lawsuit against the pipeline.

Scherr said a suit was being brought by the group, Pipe Line Awareness for the North East.

Sable reported on a no-pipeline float designed by Coni Porter that was featured at the Gate City Harvest Fair Parade in Nashua on Saturday. It included a model compressor station spewing smoke.

There will be a compressor station information program on Sunday, Oct. 25th, 3 p.m. at the Northfield Trinitarian Church, 147 Main Street, Northfield MA.

Scherr announced that a no-pipeline rally will be held in Keene on Halloween, from 10 a.m.- noon, with a march from Ashuelot River Park to Central Square.

Also, Kinder Morgan's filing with FERC has been extended to Nov 20th.

Open Space Committee – Updates:

Zug had reported that the third letter has been sent out to residents of the fourth area of town. She clarified this as the eastern section.

Kotila requested that the designation be made more specific.

Zug added the committee is in the process of the final letter and is open to suggestions on what to do next. They are focusing on areas of 10 acres or more. They are waiting to hear back on the Jean West property.

Site Walk Reports:

None.

Budget Reports:

The Cons Comm is scheduled to meet with the CIP Committee on Thursday, 11/12/15, sometime after 5:30 p.m. (Other departments are also scheduled that evening.) Six copies of our CIP forms should be brought to the meeting, according to a memo from Debbie.

There was a discussion about the CIP form, CIP committee, funds, expenses, etc. We are requesting the same CIP amount as last year. Kotila will update the old form.

YTD Expenses are: \$609.94

YTD Payroll: \$824.55

Planning Board:

An email arrived today from Sandra saying PB minutes are all being posted to the town website now. She will try to copy us on them.

Other Business:

Lindquist said the Monadnock Advisory group will be meeting and he would be happy to address anything related to the mountain.

Zug initiated a discussion about future hiking possibilities for kids with Habitat for Humanity. Mount Monadnock was not recommended, as it could be challenging.

Discussion about the NHACC conference on Nov. 7th. Lindquist and Kotila are going.

Sable shared a photo of an 800-year-old sweet chestnut tree from a recent trip to Wales. She also reported having given copies of our town forest management plans to the selectmen's office, per a request from Chris Holman to Debbie.

Discussion of old WGF management plan and whether we should update it.

Green reported that Rosalind Slavic will be 95 on Wednesday. She's at Genesis Health Care on Court Street in Keene. Green agreed to send a card on our behalf.

Correspondence:

Memo from Debbie Favreau, CIP meeting schedule; NH Assoc. of Cons Comms— Annual Meeting and Conference announcement, Nov. 7th; invitation, Cheshire County Conservation District 70th Annual Meeting Nov. 5th; DES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau Fall newsletter; DES Shoreland Impact Permit approval for Dana and Kathryn Hodgkins, Laurel Lake; Bobcat Magazine with conservation article

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting: Nov. 16th.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Sable, Secretary