

Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission

21 March 2016– Minutes

Present:

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

Absent: None

Guests: From Selectmen's office: Debbie Favreau, Sheryl White; Selectmen: C. Holman, S. Silverman, N. Carney; Robin Blais, Planning Board

Review Minutes of 25 Jan. 2016:

Approved as previously accepted.

Review Minutes of 15 Feb. 2016:

Approved as amended.

Agenda Review:

Reappointments – Kotila will contact selectmen regarding the reappointments of Brackett, Lindquist, and Zug, who all wish to continue on the Commission.

Meet with Selectmen—Wetlands report:

Members discussed Rick Van de Poll's latest report. It contains a full list of all the areas meeting various categories for ranking wetlands. He pulled out those areas rated high and very high. There are 33 of the latter, marked in red on the map. We are to let Van de Poll know how many of these we want designated in the plan – we may choose 30-50 of the 100-plus on the extended list. Silverman asked that we look at the shorter list and see how many we want to focus on, or if we want to add others that are not on the list. She will send an XL copy to Sable. We should not include major water bodies such as Laurel Lake, Rockwood Pond, etc., as they are covered under existing shore land and wetlands protection. The full list is on one tab. (You have to open it and click on sheet 1, 2, or 3.) We should also suggest name replacements for working titles used to identify some areas.

There was a discussion of whether to have Van de Poll return. We would like outreach to summer people, though info is available on the town website.

We will decide if there are areas we want eliminated from the list of 30 and add any that we'd like to add from the extensive list. We will decide and send our recommendations to Rick, Robin or Susan. The choices must be made before any of the on-site legwork, as the lists were based on aerial photo interpretations. Criteria are on the first page of the report. Ground truthing is done in accordance with the NH method. Scott Pond and the Gaseau property have already been written up per our request. Cons Comm members will discuss later this evening whether to hold a special meeting or to work individually to finalize the list. The lists can be coordinated with the numbers on the maps. Prime wetlands are expected to be determined by this Fall.

Holman noted that some people are upset about what's been done at Horseshoe Pond.

The selectmen's portion of the meeting ended and the Cons Com continued its regular meeting with further discussion about the wetlands project.

We will try to stay under 50 choices on the list. We need to come to our decisions from some factor of local importance, as the criteria are already covered. We should be looking at what we think is missing, but be careful about including too much, due to cost. We could ask Van de Poll what other towns have done. Are there places with outstanding characteristics but not much area? It's a matter of comparing maps and what might be relevant characteristics. The new maps should be more accurate than our NRI, with more info and updated. Members can come in, look at the maps and website, look at the Open Space Plan, etc.

The consensus was that each member has areas more familiar to him/her. Decisions should be based on each person's knowledge of the town, our neighbors and local interests. All members should contact Brackett regarding the list within two weeks, whether or not they recommend any changes.

Metzger TF Stewardship Plan:

We have had no news from the forester. Kotila can contact him again. Discussion: Should we set a time limit, saying if we don't hear back by a certain date, we go to someone else? Kotila can attend to that. Our next step would be to decide what we want to do and bid it out. We need to discuss parking, trails, etc. Members will review a draft stewardship plan and prepare to discuss the next step.

Gas Pipeline Update:

Vernon (VT) wants to convert the defunct nuclear power plant to gas.

Also, S. Silverman has emailed info of the possibility of KM doing a dry passage across Scott Pond, creating a dam or berm instead (filling it in?). Brackett will forward the email. The plan appears to be opposite of what Van de Poll would recommend for wetlands mitigation.

Dog Waste Cleanup Bags:

This is on hold till later this spring.

Open Space Committee – Updates:

Zug reported that the Bordens have purchased the Vicky Fisher property on Fullam Hill Rd., about 90 acres. They have contacted the Conservancy, but this is a slow process. The committee also has received three letters, has a couple articles that might go out, and is open for suggestions on other activities.

Monadnock Advisory Committee Update:

The Committee has advised the state parks to deny access to the proposed pipeline. Also, July 15-19th is trails weekend. On Aug 19-28th, a professional trails crew will be coming from Jolly Rovers to do extensive rock cutting, drilling, etc. Apr 23rd is "meet the mountain" day.

Blais earlier reported that the Committee has sent a letter opposing the proposed pipeline to DRED, the Governor, and other officials.

Site Walk Reports:

Kotila signed off on Skip Hagstrom's earlier application for Paul Grasewicz to install steps down to Laurel Lake on West Lake Rd.

Budget Reports:

Payroll: \$321.36 YTD.

Planning Board:

Members had not checked the website.

Other Business:

Town Meeting – Everything passed except the tree cutting on the common.

Correspondence:

DES – 2 returned applications for Paul Grasewicz project, West Lake Rd., missing fee and information.

Memo from Selectmen--mileage reimbursement rate is .54 per mile.

Saving Special Places notice, April 9, Alton NH (2 copies)

Notice from Chris Holman re NH Center for Nonprofits

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting—April 18th, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Sable, Secretary