

**Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission**  
18 July 2016– Minutes

**Present:**

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

**Absent:** Rick Brackett

**Guests:** Susan Silverman, 7:45 p.m.

**Review Minutes of 20 June 2016**

Approved as amended.

**Agenda Review:**

Add Complete Streets, rail trail

**Rail Trail:**

Lindquist reported on damage on the rail trail from the logging operation on the Chamberlain property. The ATV traffic may eventually smooth it out. The snowmobile group doesn't have anything to grade the trail, but they locked the gate at Collins Pond. Lindquist contacted NH Trails but hasn't heard back.

**Chamberlain Property:**

Kotila shared the estimated budget put together by Anne McBride. It was \$125,360, with an ARM fund total of \$126,000 anticipated. The Conservancy would own it. The purchasing of land by the Conservancy is new. They are suggesting that the Cons Com contribute about \$6,000 toward the cost. It is important to show local support for the application.

Members voiced that the request seemed reasonable. The expenditure would not require Town Meeting for approval.

Lindquist made a MOTION to agree to participate in the purchase of the Chamberlain property for \$6,000, pending the final budget from the Monadnock Conservancy. Zug seconded.

There was a discussion about the possibility of ATV problems if we were to put a kiosk at the landing of a recent logging operation on the Chamberlain lot. Lindquist noted we would have to decide how to control access to property. The Town would maintain the parking lot. The Sno-Moles maintain the rail trail and it appears that ATV's are allowed when trails are frozen.

Members voted ALL IN FAVOR of the motion.

**Wetlands Survey Update—Rick:**

Brackett was absent, but Kotila noted that Rick Van de Poll has said it is OK to incorporate his work into the Chamberlain property project.

**Metzger TF Stewardship Plan Changes:**

No word yet from Powers. There was a discussion about our options. Can we solicit for a forester to help implement the plan? There seems to be a shortage of available foresters.

**Solar Array Proposal:**

Nothing on this has come before the Commission. Members speculated about the location of the proposed sites.

Selectman Susan Silverman reported that the proposal came before the Planning Board in June. They wanted to meet with whoever is in charge. Ranger Solar was calling the plan an “economic boon” to the town. She noted concerns that a lot of trees in close proximity to wetlands would be cut.

Members felt a need to know what the plan is. Also, they were not familiar with Ranger Solar.

Silverman said the company is “like a Kinder Morgan” in that they are not going to run the utility. Also, they would be going through the state Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) and we wouldn’t see any of the power being produced as it would be sold to ISO New England. She clarified that the Fullam Hill site proposed is not the former Olson property. It is just south of the Gasseau property near Scott Pond.

There was a discussion about whether the land owner would be leasing it, and how that would affect the tax assessment. It’s complicated.

**Dog Waste Cleanup Bags:**

Sable passed around copies of the website for dog waste cleanup stations. Members opted for the simplest plan — the “mini” which comes with 400 bags of the single pull type for \$129, “everything” included.

Zug made a MOTION, seconded by Green, to purchase the “mini” dog waste station with single pull bags. The vote was ALL IN FAVOR. [Note — members reconsidered this decision via email the following day when it was determined that the trash hauler for the Rockwood Pond area is prohibited from disposing of dog waste. Sable will await further word from members before placing the order.]

**Open Space Committee Updates -- Dorothy:**

Zug said the Committee has put an article in the newsletter and has one remaining article titled “Current Use, Conservation Funds and Conservation Easements”. Members agreed that it could be run in the newsletter in the Fall, completing the subcommittee’s work.

**Monadnock Advisory Committee Update:**

Nothing to report

**Site Walk Reports:**

None.

**Budget Reports:**

Expenses— \$191.00, paper and printing

Payroll—YTD — \$580.92

**Planning Board:**

Nothing to add.

**Other Business:**

Members asked Silverman about our request for a sign at Turner Rd.

Kotila cited a recent reply from road agent Gene Cuomo saying that access can't be restricted. We want to make sure people know it is open to the public. A change in the road status would have to go to Town Meeting for a vote.

Silverman noted we could say it's a class VI road, not town maintained.

Kotila will write back to Debbie asking for a sign indicating this.

Also, members supported Kevin Woolley as an alternate member of the Commission.

Also, Kotila is getting a sign laminated for the kiosk, showing the address for the WGTF. The red trail is in pretty good shape and there are plenty of maps.

Zug spoke about the Complete Streets workshop she attended. The SWRP has worked with Troy, Swanzey and Keene to make streets walker and bike friendly.

Silverman said a few years ago the town surveyed people through the schools about sidewalks, but people didn't want their kids walking to school. This would be a different project. Also, there will be a meeting about the Rte. 12/119 intersection. People can provide input on the website.

Other discussions involved the status of a committee meeting about landscaping on the green, and what can be done to address the geese problem at Rockwood Pond and Laurel Lake.

Silverman reported on a letter about possible PFOA contamination from Meadowood. The substance is associated with fire depressant foams. Nancy Carney said the wells are not showing anything now. The out buildings there are being used by the town for storage.

Also, a company has expressed interest in the old Bard property (formerly Concord Industries). It could provide about 25 jobs and sounds like a clean industry.

Also — Blue Sky — the new cell tower at the Pinnacle, will carry T-Mobile and 4 other services. It should provide better coverage for the town, including the entire Depot area.

**Correspondence:**

DES letter, re Lapointe violations; reply from Gene Cuomo, re signs for Turner Rd.; NH Association of Conservation Commissions, publication about invasive plants. (Sable will place at library.)

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Next meeting—Aug. 15, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Sable, Secretary