

Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission
18 Dec. 2017– Minutes

Present: Kevin Woolley, alternate; Rick Brackett; Barbara Green, acting chair; Hiel Lindquist; Dorothy Zug

Absent: Cheryl Norskey, Paul Kotila

Guests: None

Review Minutes of 20 Nov 2017:

Approved as amended.

Agenda Review:

No additions.

Metzger TF Trails—Scheduling and payment discussion:

Brackett met with Lew Shelley today and showed him 3 entry points on the property. Shelley will start snow shoeing around now that the leaves are off. As soon as the contractor is ready to go, he will begin invoicing the town. The end date is flexible to make sure that both parties see that all is satisfactory.

There was a discussion about whether Kotila needs to sign the Statement of Work (SOW). Members felt it would be OK to vote to accept the scope of work and have Kotila add any changes, as there is no invoice yet. Members read the document and Lindquist made a MOTION to accept the SOW as is, with the exception of changing the title on page 1 to “Town of Fitzwilliam” instead of “Cheshire County”. Zug seconded. ALL IN FAVOR.

Brackett added that during his walk with Lew, they found both the Turner Rd. and Old Troy Rd. ROW accesses were heavily posted “no trespassing”. He suggested we meet with the owners to establish some rapport and discuss access issues, as the signs do not appear very welcoming.

Templeton Turnpike Property (Templeton Turnpike (62 Acres, Map 11, Lot 64)):

Brackett reported that Anne at the Conservancy had bumped into an accountant and they began talking about land ownership. The accountant said he had a client in Fitzwilliam interested in donating a small parcel of mostly wetland with a dam. It is a 62-acre parcel along the east side of the flats. It includes part of what was Stone Pond before it was drained. There is about one acre of upland, but it is non-buildable. The Conservancy felt that the lot was too small and the dam liability was a factor. They asked about our interest in it.

Members discussed what the best options might be — outright donation or easement? There is little threat of development, but the town currently receives only a small amount of taxes for it. Its main value is wildlife habitat.

Brackett said he will inform the Selectmen that the project is “brewing” and find out whether the dam is included or not. The estate sounds “complicated”, but we should continue talking to the land owner.

Borden Property — Fullam Hill:

Kotila had emailed the map and info about a proposed easement on this 88-acre parcel on Fullam Hill Rd.

Zug noted that we had started talking to the previous owner (Vicky Fisher) 8 yrs ago. It's interesting to see the process.

Brackett said that Anne at the Conservancy wants to know the next step. The owner has no money for transaction costs so the Conservancy is asking how the Town might fit into the funding package. The easement would be donated but they need money for the survey, appraisals, legal fees, etc.

Members decided we would like Anne to come and talk to us about the project —Do the owners have any terms for the easement, etc?

Zug described the property as having beautiful fields and woods on east side, plus the house. She hasn't walked the other side.

Brackett said he would try to get Anne to come to one of our next meetings to go down the checklist.

Zug added she would wait till after we talk to Anne before talking to the owner. The easement would be nice to have because there's not much we own in that part of town.

Other Property Updates: Chamberlain, Tolton, Wenniger, Campbell:

Brackett reported that the Chamberlain project is "back on the fast track." Monadnock Conservancy will take ownership in the next couple months.

There is nothing new on the Tolton or Wenniger properties. The Campbell lot is going on the Warrant.

Dog Waste Cleanup Bags:

Nothing new.

Solar Array Proposal:

Nothing reported.

Monadnock Advisory Committee Update:

Nothing new.

Site Walk Reports:

None

Budget Reports: 2018 Budget:

Green — The Budget hearing was on Nov. 30th.

The CIP meeting was scheduled for 6:15p.m. She and Kotila were there, but the Budget Committee was meeting in the other room. They finally arrived at 7 p.m. but had no questions about our request or the budget.

2017 Budget — Expenses YTD: \$921.79

Payroll YTD — $\$763.23 + 58.39 = \821.62

Planning Board:

No news

Brackett said that Francie Von Martens from Peterborough was asking about Fitzwilliam's solar farm ordinance, but he replied we have not been involved.

Other Business:

Sable was working on our entry for the Town Report but had no minutes for January, 2017. Members confirmed that the meeting had been canceled due to Martin Luther King Day. They decided to change the date for our next meeting so as to avoid Martin Luther King Day. The meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 22nd instead of the 15th.

Correspondence:

Certificate of Liability Insurance re Lewis Shelley, Snow Hawk LLC, from Clark-Mortenson.com; Statement of Work (SOW) Agreement from Snow Hawk LLC; memo from Debbie — Town report submission due Jan. 12th; Monadnock Conservancy newsletter; Thank you note from Conservancy re donation in memory of David Green.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting will be Jan. 22nd, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m. (Sable will notify the newsletter and Fitznet of the change in schedule due to MLK Day.)

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Sable, Secretary