

**Fitzwilliam Conservation Commission**  
**18 Sept. 2017– Minutes**

**Present:** Hiel Lindquist, Dorothy Zug, Cheryl Norskey, Paul Kotila, Chair; Kevin Woolley, alternate; Rick Brackett

**Absent:** Barbara Green

**Guests:** None

**Review Minutes of 21 August 2017:**

Approved as amended.

**Agenda Review:**

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

Tolton — Zug — The owner had agreed to separate the house from the property across the road, and was asking \$45,000 for the property. There was a huge interest expressed in this, but the whole thing was withdrawn when concerns then arose about Current Use.

Brackett explained that 10 acres would be required for C.U., not counting the house. He indicated that the land has enough frontage to create additional lots, so developers might find it worth paying the penalty for taking the land out of current use.

Zug asked assurance that the Town was interested in the property on the other side, as her daughter might be interested in the house.

Brackett said we can't promise more than the appraised value, which we don't know. We would need the owner's permission to have it appraised.

Kotila stated we are interested in purchasing the property at an appropriate price but we need an appraisal.

Lindquist made a MOTION to contact the owner of the property and get permission to do an appraisal on the 14.5 acres, Map 13, Lot 12, property adjacent to the WGTF. Woolley SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR.

If Zug receives permission, Brackett will take care of getting an appraisal. Just a hand-written note is fine.

Lindquist made a MOTION to authorize appraisal of same property if permission is granted. This was SECONDED by Norskey. ALL IN FAVOR.

Brackett reported that the Chamberlain project is on track and may be done by the end of the calendar year.

The Campbell property is going on the next Town Warrant.

There is nothing new on the Wenniger property but Zug will call Scherioth (realtor) to say we're interested.

**Bat House:**

Woolley sent info on this to everyone. The request was from Shiela Ames of the Troy Cons Comm for \$150.00 to purchase materials to install a bat house behind our Town Hall as part of a collaboration between Fish & Game and NH Audubon for a volunteer bat count program.

(<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/surveys/bats.html>)

Members weren't sure whether it would be on a post or on the building. Repairs to the Town Hall belfry might displace any bats using that area, making this a useful project.

Woolley will find out the dimensions and general appearance of the unit, and ask whether Ames has approached selectmen about this. Since bats migrate, the project may not start until Spring.

### **Dog Waste Cleanup Bags:**

Lindquist emptied the receptacle. It was half full again.

### **Solar Array Proposal:**

Nothing new, but more solar is being installed locally as prices drop.

### **Metzger TF Stewardship Plan & Trails RFP:**

Kotila began a discussion on how to proceed with the RFP. We received 2 responses out of five requests—One from Snowhawk LLC and the other from the AMC. There were two declines, and one who did not answer.

Kotila compared cost estimates from the two responses. They were about \$4,000 from Snowhawk and \$6,576 from the AMC. He asked “why the difference?”

Members suggested that Lew Shelley of Snowhawk's estimate wasn't broken down like the one from the AMC. The AMC's estimate might be firmer, though Shelley wasn't known to deviate from estimates issued in previous work done through the Conservancy, according to Brackett. Lindquist, a member of the AMC and executive board of the NH chapter, added he's sure that they would do a thorough job on the trail though their high standards and tendency to be rigid may take more time than necessary.

There was a discussion on whether to try for another bid or just go with the two. Woolley said he had picked applicants he believed would be most likely to respond. Members agreed there was no point in postponing the project again.

Lindquist opted for working with Shelley since the goal is just to lay the trails out, not commit to further work. He does construction as well, and could involve volunteers.

Brackett added he knows all the standards, scale, techniques, of the job and is more flexible.

Lindquist made a MOTION to accept Lew Shelley, of Snowhawk LLC for trail design, SECONDED by Zug. The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

Brackett informed Shelley of our decision and invited him to our next meeting on Oct. 16th. Shelley later accepted the invitation.

### **Monadnock Advisory Committee Update:**

Lindquist hasn't heard anything. The next meeting is the first week in November.

They did put up a Class VI sign at the Rhododendron end of Turner Rd. The sign is good, as it clearly delineates the town road.

### **Site Walk Reports:**

None

### **Budget Reports:**

Expenses YTD — \$305.09

Payroll, YTD — \$519.12

The Budget deadline is Thurs., Oct. 24th. Budget hearing is Nov. 30th, starting at 7 p.m. No time slots are set for various departments.

We need to discuss organizations we wish to support. Kotila will put it on the agenda. Members should be thinking about suggestions and amounts.

Sable will hold budget info and Kotila will put it on the next agenda.

**Planning Board:**

No news

**Other Business:**

Members expressed regrets on the recent passing of David Green, acknowledging his many contributions to conservation, including those instrumental in the establishment of Tracie's Farm. Zug made a MOTION, SECONDED by Norskey, for the Commission to make a \$200 contribution to the Monadnock Conservancy in honor of David Green. The MOTION was approved, with Brackett abstaining due to his employment with the Conservancy. Kotila will submit a letter to selectmen authorizing the donation.

**Correspondence:**

Save the Date — SFI Implementation Committee, (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) Sept. 22, Lancaster NH;

Budget Season Memo, Debbie Favreau—current wage & salary schedule plus budget committee meeting schedule & agenda. Also, CIP summary and project sheets.

Save the Date, NHACC Annual Meeting & Conference, Nov. 4th, 8 a.m., Pembroke NH.

Letter, DES Wetlands Bureau—seasonal dock at Woodbrook campground, M 42, L 1-76 .

Letter, DES— Shoreland Impact Permit, Sportsman Pond, detached garage and regrade.

Letter, DES—Wetland permit incomplete, Anderson Rd.

Letter, DES—Violation regarding construction of a wooden bridge at Old Pierce Rd., M 1, L 8.

[note: Sable spoke to selectmen Silverman and Carney about this. The bridge is for a logging project, co-owned by several owners. It would be in Prime Wetlands except that the paperwork for our ordinance had not yet been submitted to the state for approval. Van de Poll told Silverman he would be submitting it soon. Carney has more info if we need it.]

Letter, DES—Complete Forestry Notification, M15, L47.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:08p.m. Next meeting will be Oct. 16th, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Lindquist will not be attending.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Sable, Secretary