

# TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### MINUTES

**Monday, January 13, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Paul Kotila, Hiel Lindquist, Beth Vanney

**Members Absent:** Cheryl Norskey, Susan Silverman, Kevin Wooley, Dorothy Zug

Mr. Kotila called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Kotila acknowledged there wasn't a quorum but wanted to continue the meeting to give some updates to those members present.

#### **PRIMARY:**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 16, 2019 – Amended** - Tabled until the next meeting.

**Update on additional information for Chamberlain funding (Monadnock Conservancy property)**  
– Mr. Kotila talked to Rick Brackett and he (Brackett) doesn't think he will need any additional money.

**Update on Meeting with the Selectmen for Schupack Easement Appraisal Approval** – Mr. Kotila shared that he met with the Selectmen regarding the value of the Schupack property. The Selectmen would like to get something in writing about the Town having right of first refusal. Mr. Kotila shared what the language would be for the right of first refusal. Mr. Kotila would e-mail Matt Buonomano to discuss. Mr. Kotila stated that he would be looking for something simple that stated that the Town has until a certain date to get something in agreement. Mr. Kotila would follow-up with Commission members.

**Update - WPOD – Draft** – Mr. Kotila gave a summary of the changes. Mr. Kotila noted the major difference included prime wetlands without any reference to the State. The changes included: removing the exemption for any additions to existing structures, clarifies errors in language, and makes other things much clearer.

Discussion was held on buffers that prohibit certain uses. A 50 foot buffer for wetlands and a 75 foot buffer for the prime wetlands prohibits any structures that were above 100 square feet, and there is a 25 foot buffer against the dumping of snow.

Mr. Kotila shared that those were the primary changes. Ms. Vanney asked if there were any enforcement language. Mr. Kotila shared that enforcement wasn't typically included.

Mr. Kotila reviewed the enforcement process. Mr. Kotila would send out the latest draft to Commission members as they didn't receive it.

Ms. Vanney asked if the Conservation Commission stated that the property owner has to do planting, would that be part of the conditions. It was noted that it would be part of the conditions.

Mr. Lindquist asked who would speak to the Warrant Article at the Town meeting. Mr. Kotila shared that the ordinances were from the Planning Board but that he would be happy to speak to it.

**Information on Grant from the Cheshire County Conservation District – to help small landowners improve the wildlife habitat on their properties** – Mr. Kotila shared that it was for small landowners, but he didn't know if it was temporary. Ms. Vanney shared that she would make property owners aware with an article in the newsletter. Ms. Vanney asked how many homes at Laurel Lake had gutters.

Discussion was held on the stable property and the owner having passed away.

**Correspondence: NHDES - Map 10, Lot 45 - Information Only**

**State of NH Site Evaluation Committee - Petition to Intervene - Town of Fitzwilliam – Attorney Manzelli – Information Only** – Mr. Kotila shared this was the first official hearing for Chinook since their filing with the SEC. The hearing will be held on January 15, 2020 at 6 p.m. Mr. Kotila indicated that the MOU hasn't been signed and Chinook wants the PILOT completed along with the MOU. Mr. Kotila also shared reports were back and a consultant has been hired for an archeological review. The experts would only be reviewing the existing documents, to determine if any further research was needed, including field work. Rick Van de Poll had recommendations for information that he felt should be added to the report. Mr. Kotila noted that the sound expert didn't have any problem with the analysis.

Mr. Lindquist asked what would happen if the town does not sign the PILOT. Mr. Kotila explained that the PILOT provides predictability to the town.

Ms. Vanney asked if the SEC would know about any changes that would be made to Chinook's documentation. Mr. Kotila noted that was where the process was at this time. Ms. Vanney was concerned with the effects on turtles when they come out of hibernation. Ms. Vanney will call the person that she spoke with at Fish and Game to discuss the turtles, since the land has been logged. Mr. Kotila will review Mr. Van de Poll's report to see if he mentioned anything about the turtles.

**Supply Lines with The Source – Fall 2019 Newsletter**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ON-GOING BUSINESS:**

Budget Report: Expenses (including payroll) as of January 10, 2020

Buonomano Property Update: Mr. Lindquist shared that Mr. Buonomano requested pulling information on his property's trails from the Town's maps. Mr. Lindquist would contact Barbara Green to determine if new trail maps had been ordered and if not, the maps needed to be modified to eliminate information on Mr. Buonomano's property.

Dog Waste Cleanup Bags: Mr. Lindquist bought more bags. Ordered 800 which was the smallest amount that could be ordered.

Initiatives - Invasive Bittersweet:

Meadowood Task Force Update:

Monadnock Advisory Committee Update: Mr. Lindquist shared that he went on the first day hike at Monadnock State Park. There were 100 people that did the hike. Trail guides were staged at various places to provide background about the park and answer any questions.

Property Updates:

Site Walk Reports:

Solar Array Proposal – Chinook (NextEra) – Ongoing

Trails Updates & Design: Discuss next steps for the Katie Metzger Forest: Mr. Kotila would follow-up with Lew Shelley.

Updating Ordinances: On-going

Next Meeting: Monday, February 10, 2020

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl White  
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

**Minutes approved as amended February 10, 2020**