

TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, May 18, 2020
7:00 PM

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conservation Commission met remotely via phone/video conferencing, as allowed under NH Executive Order 2020-04, Emergency Order #12.

Members Present: Paul Kotila, Hiel Lindquist, Beth Vanney, Kevin Woolley, Susan Silverman, and Dorothy Zug

Members Absent: Cheryl Norskey

Mr. Kotila called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

PRIMARY:

Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 10, 2020

Mr. Kotila motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Vanney seconded. Motion passed.
Yes: 5 [Kotila, Lindquist, Vanney, Woolley, Zug]; No: 0; Abstained: 1 [Silverman]

Consultation – Thomas Anderson – Construction of a porch within the WPOD

Mr. Kotila introduced case to the commission. Mrs. Silverman was confused on porch location, and requested a site walk.

Mr. Kotila brought up the 2018 DES complaints and the unresolved 2013 lake-side deck complaint. The consultation was for a 4x12ft non-lake-side porch, overlooking the driveway. The LUC then gave background on the DES complaints and where she thought the complaints stood now. Ms. Vanney commented that it appears new owners, same problems. Mrs. Silverman further agreed stating with the number of problems on the property and the history, a site walk is needed. The commission should not just sign off on the case. The construction may be fine but the commission should look just to be sure. Mrs. Zug commented that this property seems to ignore all the rules, regardless of the owners.

The commission agreed to conduct a site walk on May 22 at 5:30pm, in conjunction with ZBA's site walk. It was further agreed with Mr. Kotila (as chairman), along with Mrs. Silverman and Ms. Vanney would represent the group, to ensure the group stayed within the CDC recommended group sizing.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Budget Report: Expenses (including payroll) as of May 13, 2020

The commission agreed that expenses are in line and no further discussion was needed.

Matt Buonomano property: Mr. Kotila relayed to the commission that a property appraisal is not required. In a side conversation with Selectman Kenison, Mr. Kenison indicated he thought one should be done. Mr. Woolley mentioned that the commission recommended obtaining one. Mr. Kotila will meet with the Selectmen to discuss this issue further.

Annual Town Meeting Update: Mr. Kotila updated the commission on the warrant articles, including the passage of the revised WPOD, including the elimination of the porches/additions exemption for building extensions, and \$5,000 conservation land fund approval.

Widow Gage Trail: Mr. Lindquist explained that the Widow Gage trail, including the Pinnacle trails, are in good shape. There are a few branches down and they are out of maps. If the Town moves forward with the Buonomano property, the trail maps need to be updated. The commission agreed to make photocopies of the current map as long as the Buonomano property is crossed out. Mr. Lindquist will handle this project. Mr. Woolley agreed and said the Widow Gage trails are passable and nothing needs to be done at this time.

Initiatives - Invasive Bittersweet: Ms. Vanney said there is nothing new on bittersweet, but would like to add something to the newsletter. Extensive work has been done on Barbara Green's lot, taking around 2-3 weeks to clear the ½ to 1 acre area. Ms. Vanney will be working to finish the schoolhouse lot, as they are 3 weeks into the project now. Next up are the highway property and John Fitzwilliam's property. Ms. Vanney said she has received about 5-6 calls, to relay information or ask advice. Three lots on Templeton Turnpike have been cleared. She expects more calls as the weather warms up.

Other Trail Updates: Mr. Lindquist updated the commission about the Chamberlain property on Old Turnpike Road, off the Rail Trail. Gates, parking, and kiosks are now available. Mr. Lindquist asked about the Katie Metzger trails. Mr. Kotila indicated that he spoke with Lew Shelley and said the Town is still interested in working with him but did not seek help with volunteers due to the coronavirus and everything pending. Mr. Lindquist said he spoke with the Forest Society, who said individual work can be done now; but collectively not until August.

Meadowood Task Force Update: Mrs. Zug continues to contact the EPA, DES, and SWRPC to remind them that the Town is still interested. One month ago, she met with Winn Wright, the fire chief, and EPA/DES/SWRPC group. The EPA has approved funding for testing by NOBIS. The group as a whole agreed with the plan presented. Testing should begin at any time, but Mrs. Zug was not given an exact date. Mrs. Zug explained testing will include existing wells and sand samples on the north side of the pond. They will also repair the sampling wells. Mrs. Silverman relayed that residents in the area have asked for more information on the contaminated wells. She asked if the testing plan can be made available to the public. Mrs. Zug said that once the report comes back, then we can go from there. Dividing the property into 3 lots is a possibility. Ms. Vanney asked on the timeline for results and the cost. Mrs. Zug indicated there is no timeline and cost was not disclosed.

Monadnock Advisory: Mr. Lindquist has not been able to meet with them yet.

Solar Array Proposal – Chinook (NextEra): No new information to discuss.

Monadnock Conservancy: Mr. Kotila had a call in March with them about site walks, but is unsure of the status now. He will complete the surveys requested by the Conservancy.

Tree removal at Town Hall and Library: Ms. Vanney asked if the Selectmen have approved the removal of the olive tree at the Town Hall. Mr. Kotila will follow-up during his meeting with them. Ms. Vanney also inquired about the five trees that should be removed at the library – one in the corner near the firehouse by fence along parking lot line, and two trees on each side of the pathway leading to library. The highway department was going to remove them. However, the trees are about 4” in diameter. If the Town is unable to remove, Ms. Vanney offered to cut them down herself. Mr. Kotila will follow-up with the Selectmen on the status.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Nolan
Land Use Coordinator

Approved as amended on June 15, 2020