

TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, June 17, 2019
7:00 PM

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

Members Absent: Cheryl Norskey

Mr. Kotila called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

PRIMARY:

Approval of Meeting Minutes - May 20, 2019 – Mr. Kotila made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Lindquist seconded. Mr. Kotila – Yes, Hiel Lindquist – Yes, Susan Silverman – Yes, Beth Vanney – Yes, Kevin Woolley – Yes, Dorothy Zug – Yes. Approved 6-0

Discuss information request from the Board of Selectmen – Chinook Solar MOU - Points of discussion to be considered for inclusion in the MOU

Mr. Kotila asked about the attachment with the Selectmen’s letter. Ms. White explained the letter from Chinook was the attachment. Discussion was held on whether there was a report for them to read to gather their concerns. Discussion continued on whether they needed to mow, being in close proximity to Scott Brook, properties being logged, if herbicides would be used, noise, the location, hours of operation, best practices for logging, keeping setback to Scott Brook, being on the uphill side of the properties, are there any vernal pools, can collaborate with NextEra to investigate having a meadow land, maintaining grounds naturally, as well as the perimeter, securing the site (fencing), wildlife, and lighting. Ms. Silverman shared her major concern was Scott Brook and vernal pools, if any. We should be concerned with anything listed in Rick Van de Poll’s report. Ms. Silverman would like a report on that side of Scott Brook.

Ms. Silverman felt Mr. Van de Poll had a pretty good report and maybe we request setbacks. Mr. Lindquist’s concern was to comply with the wetland setbacks. Discussion was held on not having a preliminary site plan. Mr. Woolley had a copy and Mr. Lindquist stated to refer to Mr. Van de Poll’s study to make sure they comply with what he had indicated would be beneficial.

Mr. Kotila asked if the Selectmen had set a meeting date with the Chairs of the Conservation Commission and Planning Board. Ms. White stated no meeting had been set. Mr. Kotila shared that he would clean up his list and submit to Ms. White so she could forward to the Selectmen.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, June 17, 2019

Correspondence:

NH DES – Complaint on Map 23, Lot 3 and Jacqueline Wood’s response - For Information Only - being handled by the State

NH Division of Forests and Lands - Twi-Light Walk - 5-7 p.m. - June 10th - Rhodendron State Park - Mr. Lindquist and Mr. Woolley went on the walk. They noted the trees that would be cut were marked and most were in the parking lot circle and cutting snags and trees that would eventually die in the fall. Also poplar which are short lived trees. They noted that tree cuttings would be pulled over to a landing further down on Rhodendron Road and logging would be further to the West (towards Richmond) all of the cuttings from the park would be dragged there. Cutting in the path has already been done and some dead trees along the path were cut and would be left for habitat. Logging would continue during the winter when the park was closed at the discretion of the forester. It’s a small site and they would only want to come in once. It would be a select cut not clear cutting and nothing would be cut where the path was. There was also a buffer. Mr. Lindquist thought it was a well thought out plan. The Forester was Inge Seaboyer. She can be reached at Fox Research & Demonstration Forest, PO Box 1175, Hillsborough, NH 03244, phone: 603-464-3453 and e-mail: inge.seaboyer@dncr.nh.gov. Mr. Woolley shared there would only be one new cut made in the stone wall. Abutters were also in attendance. Mr. Woolley mentioned that anything cut around the parking lot they have to clean up completely. Both Mr. Lindquist and Mr. Woolley agreed that it was a very well thought out plan and it should have been done when they obtained the park - so it was way overdue.

Monadnock Conservancy Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2019 – Available to Commission members – Mr. Lindquist explained how conservancy works.

Supply Lines with The Source Newsletter – Spring 2019 – Available to Commission members

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Silverman discussed that she, Carole Beckwith and Barbara Green planned to have DES come in to do a workshop on well water testing - focusing on arsenic. It is in the planning stages. Ms. Silverman contacted EAI, a lab based in Swanzey, who are connected with a bigger lab located in Manchester. Ms. Silverman was expecting a call from the President of the company. Ms. Silverman mentioned that testing for arsenic was pretty expensive and they do help with the cost. Mr. Woolley shared that it cost him \$150 for testing which included other contaminants in addition to arsenic. Ms. Silverman shared they were looking at the 3rd week in August to hold the workshop. Mr. Kotila asked if it was an information session and not water sampling. Ms. Silverman shared there might be kits available at the workshop. Mr. Woolley shared that there could be a collection date. Mr. Kotila shared that testing would need to be done within 24 hours of sample collection. Ms. Silverman shared that she was waiting to hear back from Eastern Analytics.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Budget Report: Expenses (including payroll) as of June 14, 2019. Mr. Kotila requested reimbursement for a conference he attended. It would be the conference registration fee of \$65 and mileage – 40 miles at the approved mileage rate.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, June 17, 2019

Mr. Lindquist made a motion to approve the expenditure. Ms. Silverman seconded. Mr. Kotila - Abstained, Hiel Lindquist - Yes, Susan Silverman - Yes, Beth Vanney - Yes, Kevin Woolley - Yes, Dorothy Zug - Yes. Approved 5-0

Mr. Kotila discussed the composition of the Saving Special Places Conference and noted what the programs were. Mr. Kotila recommended the conference.

Dog Waste Cleanup Bags: No Update

Meadowood Task Force Update: Ms. Zug shared that the Meadowood Board was working on cleaning up and noted the silver trailer was gone. Ms. Zug also shared that the old rusted propane tank was emptied of gas, the vapor was burned off and would be hauled away by the propane company. Ms. Zug shared that she heard from JB Mack of SWRPC and they were planning Phase I and what would be reviewed. Mr. Kotila asked if Ms. Zug has to wait to hear if getting initial funding. Mr. Woolley stated in Phase 1 if more investigation was needed, would go to Phase 2. Ms. Zug stated Phase 1 was approved and she hasn't heard that money was a problem. Ms. Zug shared that the SWRPC received a letter of support from the Troy Selectmen. The process is moving along.

Monadnock Advisory Committee Update: Monadnock Trails Week – July 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 - Friday through Tuesday. The bath house was coming along and when completed, they would have an open house. The cost was \$400,000. It was nice to see money being put back into the park. Mr. Lindquist shared an article he read stating that all of the states were underfunding their state parks.

Property Updates: No Update

Site Walk Reports: No Update

Solar Array Proposal – NextEra: Public Information Meeting scheduled for July 18th from 5-7 p.m.

Trails Updates & Design: No Update – Commission members need to set aside some time to discuss what to do about Katie Metzger and to have a conversation on what they want to do next. Mr. Kotila asked that this be put on next month's agenda.

Updating Ordinances: Review of Shoreland Protection Overlay District – Draft – On hold until final draft completed by the Planning Board, at which time a joint meeting of the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission would be held.

Mr. Kotila shared that he had a conversation with Suzanne Gray and they would meet once the Planning Board has a draft.

Invasive Species – Bittersweet: Ms. Vanney shared that Doug Cygan would be in Fitzwilliam on Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the Library. Ms. Vanney handed out a Bittersweet Task Force Update and reviewed with Commission members. Ms. Vanney asked if there was anyone that took care of the landscaping other than mowing. Ms. Silverman stated that there wasn't and suggested contacting

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, June 17, 2019

Ms. Zug's neighbor who is an arborist. Ms. Vanney asked about the Town having someone that does this work on a volunteer basis.

Ms. White shared it was done on an as needed basis. Ms. Silverman shared that it should be part of the budget process. Ms. Vanney discussed getting volunteers to help clear around the fishing pond. Ms. Vanney shared that she needed to talk with Ms. Favreau. She also mentioned that the vines were being composted. She didn't know if there could be some plantings put in. Ms. Vanney shared that the bank around the pond was rocky and there was a lot of mud. Ms. Silverman shared it was a manmade pond and discussed the fishing derby and where it was held previously. Ms. Vanney shared that some trees needed to be cut and she would try to take care of them.

Mr. Lindquist asked about the legislature bill (BH326) that held up the prime wetlands for the Town. Ms. Silverman shared that she thought it got hung up in the Senate and the Committee of Conference. She noted it was amended in the Senate, so it needed to go to Committee of Conference. Ms. Silverman would follow-up as she hasn't heard anything. She shared that Mr. Van de Poll felt like DES, the logging industry and what was going on in Concord was very overwhelming. Ms. Silverman shared she doesn't know how serious this snag was. She noted Mr. Van de Poll was worried about the Governor signing once it reached his desk. Ms. Silverman explained that six wetlands that were approved at Town meeting to be designated as Prime wetlands haven't been approved by the State. Ms. Silverman also explained the bill that was going through legislation that had been written to protect prime wetlands.

Discussion was held on Senate Bill 306-FN.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen