

**Town of Fitzwilliam
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2018**

Members Present: Paul Kotila, Chairman; Rick Brackett; Barbara Green; Hiel Lindquist; Cheryl Norskey; and Kevin Woolley, Alternate; and Laurie Hayward, Land Use Administrative Assistant (LUA).

Members absent: Dorothy Zug.

Call to Order: 7:07 pm

Prior Meeting Minutes: The Chair asked for any changes to the minutes of the meeting on 18 June 2018. It was voted unanimously that the minutes be accepted with a correction to the spelling, "Fullum Hill" to be corrected to read Fullam Hill.

Land Use Assistant & Secretary: The Chair introduced the newly hired Land Use Administrative Assistant, Laurie Hayward. The LUA explained that, beyond taking minutes, she hoped to be a resource for members- for example, if they have questions about state statutes, she would be happy to do the research.

The LUA was asked if she knew the status of the Shoreland Protection Overlay District Ordinance changes and the work already done identifying the Prime Wetlands. The LUA explained that she had a brief conversation with the Planning Board Chair, Ross Tourigny, and she believes that work is still ongoing. She also said that Tourigny asked her to invite a member or members of the Conservation Committee to the next Planning Board Meeting to discuss how to best move this forward. The Commission Chair indicated that he would try to make the Planning Board Meeting.

Metzger TF Trails update: The Chair told members that he received a recent \$100 donation for the Katie Metzger Forest. He has sent letters to the family in the past but this may have come through the family itself. He will confirm.

Widow Gage Trails update: The Chair asked if any of the members had walked the Widow Gage Trail. Lindquist said that he did, but didn't see any hikers.

Trail Design: Lew Shelley, the trail consultant, has a medical condition and is under doctor care and needs to recover a bit. Brackett will check to see when Shelley can get to trails.

The Chair noted that it would be a good idea to get a letter out to abutters before Lew returns for field work. The LUA offered that, if the Chair will get the letter wording to her, she will print and post the letters to abutters.

Property Updates: Chamberlain trails- Brackett explained that he sent a request for a grant to the NH Recreational Trails Program for the Chamberlain property at the south end of Sip Pond. He is now waiting for committee review. He stated that the Town of Fitzwilliam and the local snowmobile club are partnering with Monadnock Conservancy to complete the project.

Stone Pond. There is no update on Stone Pond property.

Foskett Property. The Conservation Commission does not plan to pursue this property and an email has been sent to Ann McBride at the Monadnock Conservancy

Solar array proposal. The Chair noted that the Town has passed the new solar ordinance; but, he is not sure of the project status. There is apparently no formal proposal yet before the town. It was noted that the state would be heavily involved in this. The LUA offered to research and report the status.

Monadnock Advisory Committee Update: Lindquist stated he had nothing to report from the Monadnock Advisory Commission.

Site Walk Reports: Borden property (Fullam Hill). A Site Walk was undertaken on 11 July 2018 (Kotila, Lindquist, Green, Norskey, Woolley) in response to a request by the owner that the Board consider supporting a conservation easement in exchange for paying the transaction costs of the more than 80 acre property. Monadnock Conservancy estimates it would cost approx. \$23K to put a conservation easement together. There was a brief discussion about the characteristics of the Borden property. Commission members discussed and completed the Conservation Characteristics Worksheets.

The Chair asked if there were any prominent conservation characteristics. Comments included: it might make good recreational use for the southern part of town; no good place to park; typical NH woods; some farmland; no connection to existing conserved lands; an easement might prevent large developments on Fullam Hill. The analysis of the worksheet totals for all characteristics was 16, which is very low, meaning there are limited conservation values for the property. There was general agreement that this was probably not a property that they wanted to invest in at this point. Brackett asked why they were so interested initially. The Chair said he thinks one or two people may have suggested it be considered. The Chair will put numbers together and bring it to next meeting for members to sign off.

Dog Waste Cleanup Bags: Lindquist reports nothing new on dog waste on Collins Pond Road, although usage appears down compared to winter.

Budget Reports: No budget report at this time.

Other Business:

Brackett says the planned UNH Extension hike at the Widow Gage TF was cancelled due limited interest.

Lindquist and Woolley spoke about the Forest Society 25th stewardship anniversary party in Deering on August 2nd.

Brackett spoke about a Wings of the Dawn [A wildlife rehab and bird sanctuary group in Henniker] presentation that he attended about installing lead collection boxes at transfer stations. He said the idea is geared towards lead fishing sinkers and jigs, which have been banned in NH. The group asks for a liaison person and is hoping that the Conservation Commission will start the process. There was a brief discussion among members, and it was thought this should be passed on to the Select Board. Brackett also indicated that the group hopes to get reimbursed for costs of the boxes. There was general agreement that the Conservation Committee would support this initiative. There was a brief mention that the State does have a program in Concord that will exchange lead fishing tackle for non-lead, but a location at the Fitzwilliam transfer station would be simpler (although no exchange would be available). Brackett will investigate the details.

Green asked about supporting an arsenic in drinking water survey project. Rindge did something like that. Green offered to manage the bottle collection and take samples to Concord. Board Members agreed she should investigate and report back.

Correspondence: The Chair gave the LUA a newsletter from NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau. There was no additional correspondence.

Adjournment: The Chair, noting that there was no additional business, adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM. **The next meeting is scheduled for August 20th @ 7 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Hayward

Land Use Administrative Assistant