

TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, August 19, 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 7:04 p.m.

PRIMARY:

Approval of Meeting Minutes: July 15, 2019 - Mr. Lindquist made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Silverman seconded. Paul Kotila – Yes, Hiel Lindquist – Yes, Susan Silverman – Yes, Beth Vanney – Yes, Kevin Woolley – Yes, Dorothy Zug – Yes. Approved 6-0

Approval of Invoice - Monadnock Shopper News - \$51.00
- Is your well water safe? Ad

Mr. Lindquist made a motion to approve the invoice from Monadnock Shopper News. Mr. Woolley seconded. Paul Kotila – Yes, Hiel Lindquist – Yes, Susan Silverman – Yes, Beth Vanney – Yes, Kevin Woolley – Yes, Dorothy Zug – Yes. Approved 6-0

7:15 – Meet with Skip Hagstrom - Map 26, Lot 6 – attending for Brian Bisson, Jr.

Skip Hagstrom met with the Conservation Commission to discuss the property to be purchased by Brian Bisson, Jr. Mr. Hagstrom reviewed Mr. Bisson's plans for the property. Ms. Vanney wanted to say no. Ms. Silverman stated that she was fine with the first floor but had concerns with the second story. Ms. Silverman mentioned a salt box building to keep the run off out of the pond. Mr. Hagstrom shared that the land was steep from the building to the pond. Mr. Lindquist asked about the topography. Mr. Hagstrom explained the land and shared that the building was sitting on bedrock. Ms. Silverman stated that she didn't care about the look of the house but was concerned about run-off. Discussion was held on the concern of the run off. Ms. Silverman asked that Mr. Bisson try and keep as much of the scrubby vegetation and the small trees in place.

Ms. Zug asked if we could request all drainage be so many feet away from the pond. Mr. Hagstrom shared that drainage could follow the topography. Mr. Hagstrom explained the septic system that would be installed. Discussion was held on the pond being one of the prime wetlands. Mr. Kotila took all of the concerns and incorporated them into the comments: recommend roof and surface drainage structure to direct run off far enough away from the pond so as to prevent run off toward the pond. Mr. Hagstrom shared that Mr. Bisson wanted to do his due diligence.

Widow Gage:

Mr. Lindquist shared that he replaced the trail log book and asked if anyone would like to read the comments. Mr. Kotila mentioned that there is moisture in the box. Mr. Lindquist reported that a large tree was down across the trail, just before the loop, and another large tree on the Old Troy Road was down, near the foundation of an old house. Mr. Lindquist mentioned that ATVs were going around the foundation to get around the tree. Both trees block the trail. Mr. Lindquist didn't know whom to contact to cut the trees. Mr. Kotila asked if it was something the Town could handle and noted it was a Class 6 road. Ms. White would discuss this with Debbie Favreau and would follow-up with Commission members.

Trails Updates & Design: Discuss next steps for the Katie Metzger Forest:

Mr. Kotila and Mr. Woolley walked most of the trail that was marked out but they didn't go all of the way to Turner Road and noted that it was clearly marked. Mr. Kotila noted the next step was to more formalize the marking of the trails. Commission members were opposed to nailed trail markers. It was suggested to use paint. Mr. Lindquist asked if Lew Shelley had been paid. Mr. Kotila stated that he has been paid. Mr. Kotila shared that members needed to decide on the parking area, kiosk, whether to do forest management or logging prior to putting in the trails. Ms. Silverman asked if Mr. Shelley could come in to meet with Commission members.

Discussion was held on having scanned maps made of the printed maps, the trail not really having any views, some wetlands are brushy, and the ridge has brush so no real view. It was noted that significant cutting would have to be done in order to have any views. Mr. Lindquist shared that it was a poor lot and they wouldn't get much value out of it. Mr. Lindquist noted that loggers are busy and they want good timber. Mr. Lindquist stated we might be better paying to have a parking lot put in instead of getting a logger. Mr. Kotila mentioned that the parking and marking of the trails would be something to ask Mr. Shelley. Ms. Silverman asked about how much space would be for parking. It was noted to be big enough to handle 5-6 cars. Mr. Woolley thought maybe parking for 10-12 cars. Mr. Kotila would recommend that the trail not be obvious from the highway. Most trails are not advertised from the highway. Mr. Kotila would send Mr. Shelley an e-mail asking him to attend the Conservation Commission's next meeting.

Mr. Lindquist asked if Mr. Woolley had heard anything about the kiosk on Old Turnpike Road. Rick Brackett had put in a request for the Chamberlain property. Mr. Kotila shared that the last conversation he had with Mr. Brackett was that they were at the point to do clean up and he had asked if they could pick up debris from that location. Mr. Lindquist stated a grant was received to do this. Mr. Kotila shared that the Town seemed fine to get someone from the Highway Department to pick up the debris.

Correspondence: E-mail from Rick Van de Poll - Governor's Veto of HB326 – Mr. Kotila shared that Mr. Van de Poll was redrafting for a Town Warrant. Ms. Silverman shared that it was for the Planning Board to pick that up. Ms. Silverman stated that it was disappointing. The Town would have our own ordinances. Ms. Silverman shared that the logging and real estate developers didn't want the extra narrow points. They were against it. They were claiming there was a housing shortage.

DES – Map 25, Lot 13 - Shorelands Permit – After the Fact Approval and letter of Compliance regarding letter of Deficiency – For information only.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Silverman discussed the well water workshop and noted there were 60 people in attendance and it was standing room only. They had 40 test kits and there were 3 left. Ms. Silverman shared that the test kits would be picked up tomorrow at the Library. Pick up time was 4 p.m. Ms. Silverman shared that if you miss the pick-up time, you could bring the kit to Swanzey. Ms. Silverman thought the workshop was very successful and a lot of people who have properties at the lake were interested. Mr. Kotila liked the comment about doing it again next year. Ms. Silverman stated that it was a lot of work. Ms. Vanney asked if the health of Fitzwilliam was discussed. It was noted that radon was on point and there wasn't much arsenic. Mr. Kotila asked if we would receive data on wells. Ms. Silverman shared that we might get a percentage of the test findings from the grouping.

Ms. Silverman shared that if done earlier, we could tell people they could go to DES, as it would be a little cheaper but they would have to take the samples there. Ms. Silverman shared that the campground and the trailer park are tested every week. Mr. Lindquist found it difficult to understand what vial was to be used for what sample.

Commission members thanked Ms. Silverman for working on this project. Ms. Silverman thought that if doing again next year, she might want to hold the workshop in June or July to catch the summer people.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Budget Report: Expenses (including payroll) as of August 14, 2019 – Mr. Kotila reviewed expenses.

Dog Waste Cleanup Bags: No Report

Initiatives - Invasive Bittersweet: Ms. Vanney expanded the initiative to include purple loosestrife. Ms. Vanney gave a hand out on her work to-date to Commission members present. Discussion was held on where the purple loosestrife was located around town. Ms. Vanney discussed having a loosestrife workshop. Ms. Zug asked if she was going to continue with invasive species. Ms. Vanney thought that she would continue. Ms. Silverman asked Ms. Vanney if she was still painting with Roundup. Ms. Vanney shared that she was using Triclopyr and that the property owners make the decision. Ms. Vanney noted that loosestrife just needed to have the flowers cut. She reviewed what she has accomplished so far. Ms. Zug asked if Ms. Vanney would be writing an article for the newsletter. Ms. Vanney shared that she would be. Ms. Vanney handed out an invasive species book to members that wanted one.

Meadowood Task Force Update: Ms. Zug shared that there has been several conference calls with NJ Institute of Technology, DES, SWRPC and the EPA. Ms. Zug noted there would be a Brownfields Workshop on October 7th from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Town Hall. Representatives from the NJ Institute of Technology, DES, EPA and JB Mack from SWRPC would be in attendance to explain the whole process more fully. Ms. Zug encouraged Commission members to attend.

Monadnock Advisory Committee Update: Mr. Lindquist shared the next meeting was September 26th.

Property Updates: No Report

Site Walk Reports: No Report

Solar Array Proposal - Chinook (NextEra): Mr. Kotila shared that he sent out the update. He discussed the meeting with the Selectmen and Attorney Amy Manzelli. Ms. Vanney discussed her thoughts on the MOU. Mr. Kotila stated that he would serve as the Conservation Commission representative in these meetings.

Updating Ordinances: No Report

Ms. Silverman mentioned the override day which is held when the Governor vetoes a bill. She noted they are currently 10 votes short on the HB 326. Ms. Silverman thought it was worth writing a letter. She would need to look up the date and would e-mail Ms. White to send out to Commission members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen