

**Town of Fitzwilliam
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2018**

Members Present: Paul Kotila, Chairman; Barbara Green, Hiel Lindquist, Dorothy Zug, and Kevin Woolley, Members.

Members Absent: Rick Brackett and Cheryl Norsky.

Others Present: Jim Coppo, Susan Silverman, and Laurie Hayward, Land Use Assistant (LUA).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Review Minutes: The Chair took up the minutes of September 17th. Zug suggested that the LUA was providing more detail than Members need. The LUA explained that, as this is a Commission and, although all of their meetings are open to the public, the Commission does not generally hold Public Hearings with legislative or judiciary content so less detail is fine. It was agreed that going forward there is a preference for less detail. A few changes were identified and agreed to for the September 17th minutes. **Lindquist moved and Green seconded that the minutes of the meeting September 17, 2018 be approved as amended.** Changes were identified and agreed to for the October 15th minutes. **Lindquist moved and Green seconded and it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting October 15, 2018 as amended.**

Old Business Prime Wetlands: Susan Silverman spoke, explaining that Robin Blais, Planning Board Secretary, was unable to be there so she would speak in her place. Silverman stated that Prime Wetlands are covered by the Fitzwilliam Ordinance. Silverman asked the Chair what he wanted to see happen. The Chair indicated that he would like to see DES approve some portion of the wetlands covered in the 2017 application. His suggestion was that some part of the wetlands maps be redrawn by Rick Van Der Poll so as to not include any under 50-foot pinch points.

Silverman told Commission members that she expects legislation just submitted to go through allowing the Fitzwilliam application to receive state approval. There was additional discussion about the length of time that has passed since the application was made and the Conservation Commission's desire to see at least some portion of the town wetlands come under DES regulations for Prime Wetlands. Silverman indicated that she did not see that actions the Conservation Commission was discussing would be useful. The Conservation Commission Chair pointed out that the wording in the Ordinance is a problem and prevents the Wetlands in question to get the protection that they should have. He read the Ordinance language which includes: "Prime Wetlands" include any high value

wetland that has been designated by town vote and approved by the state.” NHDES rejected the Town’s application; as a consequence, there is no state approval and no Fitzwilliam Prime Wetlands.

Susan Silverman left the meeting at this point.

There was some discussion about what action the Conservation Commission should take at this point. Lindquist suggested that the Conservation Commission Draft a letter to be sent to the Select Board to provide the Conservation Commission’s concerns and suggestions regarding Prime Wetlands. The Chair asked the LUA to draft a letter and send the draft to Conservation Commission Members for their approval or revision before forwarding it to the Select Board.

Jim Coppo left the meeting at this point.

Meadowood: Zug discussed her work on starting a task force. She asked the Commission Members what they feel is their part in the project and especially their part regarding the dam. Zug said that without the dam, there would be no pond. Zug asked if the Commission wanted to take on the dam. The Chair said that the Commission does not want to take on perpetual responsibility for the dam. The Chair suggested that the contamination issue, which is the most serious problem, should be dealt with first and that Southwest Regional Planning Commission might be a source of support on this. The Chair noted that the Commission couldn’t own the property. The Town would have to want to purchase the property. Zug mentioned that the town could simply buy the part of the property that is across the street from the pond and is not contaminated. Zug told members that there will be a meeting in December that they could attend.

Trails Update: The Chair told members that Shelley was not quite ready for this meeting but the Chair asks the LUA put Shelley on the December Agenda.

Trails Maps: Barbara Green informed members that the price point for 200 maps was very high. Members discussed the price points for new maps and agreed it makes more sense to order 500 of each of the Rail Trail Map and the Widow Gage Trail Map.

Property Updates: Nothing new.

Solar Array Proposal: NextEra activities. The LUA explained that representatives of NextEra had been to both Select Board and Planning Board meetings in November and have asked to be on the Planning Board Agenda for the December 4th meeting. The Select Board has agreed to be at that meeting and Conservation Commission involvement would be good as well. The LUA stated that it is her understanding that NextEra/Chinook Solar has still not submitted an application to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (NHSEC). The LUA also stated that members of the Planning

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Board have asked NextEra to provide more detailed and complete information than they have in the past and NextEra stated that they would do that.

Monadnock Advisory Commission Update: next

Site Walk Reports:

Dog Waste Cleanup Bags: The LUA told Members that she had some trouble finding the exact bags that were ordered the year prior and seemed to be “dog show special” bags. She did order from the same company. The LUA handed the 800 bags that she ordered to Lindquist who will check that the bags fit the stands and will let her know if there is a problem.

Budget Reports: LUA will check regarding the schedule for the Conservation Commission operating budget review date and time and the same for the CIP which is generally a different date and let members know.

Initiatives: Nothing new.

Other Business: There was a brief discussion regarding the process for Applications and/or Permits to be reviewed for wetlands impact in a timely manner. The LUA explained that the state statutes require the Planning and Zoning Boards use strict timetables in which to hold hearings and decide cases. The LUA asked if Commission Members wanted to designate an individual or sub-committee to work with her when an application comes up that is in or near wetlands. Members agreed that it is preferable that the LUA send information out via email to all members and they will decide how they wish to proceed. The LUA agreed to do this.

Correspondence:

Adjournment: There being no additional business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Hayward
Land Use Administrative Assistant