

**Town of Fitzwilliam**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 18, 2019**

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

**Members Absent:** Cheryl Norsky

**Others Present:** Ed Goodell and Beth Vanney; and Laurie Hayward, Land Use Administrative Assistant (LUA).

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

**Review Minutes:** The Chair took up the minutes of February 14, 2019. Dorothy asked that her name be added as absent. There were no additional changes, there was a motion by the Chair to approve the minutes with one amendment; seconded and voted unanimously.

**Lion property:** The Chair explained to members that Kent Lion has offered his property to the town to be placed in conservation land. The Chair explained that the town would need to approve at town meeting. The Chair explained further that this property is 23.5 acres and is between or near other conservation properties. The Chair asked the LUA to work with Select Board regarding whether they had already responded to Lion's offer and what the process would be to move forward on this in order to perhaps place it before town voters at the Town Meeting next year. Lindquist stated that the LUA should explain to the Board of Selectmen that we are interested in pursuing this.

**Meadowood Task Force:** Zug spoke about the organization of the Task Force which is looking into the feasibility of having the town acquire Meadowood. She stated that there is a meeting planned for next Monday, March 25, 2019, at 7 PM. The Chair explained that the Conservation Commission asked the LUA to do some research regarding status of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) monitoring of the Meadowood site for hazardous waste contamination and that the LUA then passed that on to Conservation Commission Kevin Wooley as he is working with the Task Force.

Dorothy introduced Ed Goodell, who is also on the Task Force and working with the hazardous Materials issue. Goodell spoke, telling members that he has reviewed paperwork regarding DES involvement and the contamination found that was on file in Meadowood Hall. He also explained that he has been in contact with Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) about brown fields grant money available for sites such as Meadowood and that will be discussed at the meeting on March 25th.

The Chair spoke about the concern that the Task Force make sure that they understand what the costs are and how SWRPC can assist in finding funds to cover those costs. Goodell stated that the

hazard is not as bad as it was but that doesn't mean it will ever go away entirely. Goodell said that he does not know whether or to what extent the brook is contaminated.

Woolley explained from his review of documents, most of the testing was for VOCs not PFASs [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances] and the VOCs were decreasing; however, it is not clear what the PFASs are doing. Woolley explained that his information is that when the Meadowood owners encountered serious financial difficulties the state requirement that they take responsibility for the payment of any testing and mitigation was placed on a kind of hold. It is also his understanding from DES that, if a new owner were to take over the property, then that owner would be responsible for the costs of all testing and mitigation efforts. Woolley stated that the 2017 well monitoring report showed that at least one well reportedly is over 15 times the EPA advisory level. Woolley did say that the advisory levels are still under some controversy. Goodell asked that the information that Woolley is relying on be provided to him. Woolley said that he would do that. Silverman spoke about her concerns about the highly toxic nature of the PFASs especially in light of troubled sites in Merrimack and at Pease Airport.

**Monadnock Advisory Commission Update:** Lindquist stated that the Monadnock State Park is working on a year-round bathhouse for Mt Monadnock State Park. It was scheduled to be completed in September; but, with a good building season, it may now be ready in June. Lindquist stated that they will have an open house and he will let members know when that will be held. There is a meeting scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> and that will include a look at the ten-year plan. Lindquist also described a plan for a possible logging operation as Rhododendron State Park to improve the parking area. Lindquist stated that there will be a Forum on the cutting operation and he will let the Board know the date and time once that has been scheduled. Silverman noted that there is an area that the Garden Club hopes to improve and she hopes the cutting will not create a problem. Lindquist offered to pass that information on.

**Solar Array Proposal:** There was a brief discussion about the reports that NextEra has provided. The LUA explained that she sent out the file that could be sent. The bulk of the information is contained in a digital file that is too big to go out at once. Silverman suggested that the LUA see if the document can be placed on the town website. If it cannot be placed on the town website, the LUA stated that she would try to break it down into a few smaller files.

**Old Business: Spicer Proposed expansion on Laurel Lake.** The Chair asked the LUA to give an update on the Spicer project. The LUA explained that she has the Chair's signed statement of Conservation Commission concerns and comments regarding the Spicer proposal after their meeting with Paul Grasewicz, the surveyor and agent for the Spicers. She explained that the application is now with the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). The Spicers originally applied for a Special Exception to permit a significant enlargement of one of two houses on a single lot. A Special Exception having a "lower bar" is easier to get than a Variance. At the last meeting of the ZBA, the Board determined that a Variance would be required. The LUA stated that she contacted Grasewicz after the last hearing and he confirmed that he would get the re-written application for a variance in time for the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. So, the ZBA expects to pick up the Spicer application again at 7 PM on April 9, 2019.

There was a discussion regarding open questions whether the DES application will be for seasonal or year-round use and what modifications have been made or proposed for the land. The LUA explained that at the last ZBA hearing Grasewicz stated that the application to DES would be for a year-round dwelling. The LUA pointed out that there are concerns regarding the lack of an appropriate septic system. Currently there may be five bedrooms on a two-bedroom septic. Silverman asked why they went to the ZBA before the Planning Board. The LUA explained that the Planning Board asked the applicant to go to the ZBA first.

Silverman asked for the history of 10 Spicer. The LUA explained that 10 Spicer was originally applied for as a tear down and rebuild in the same footprint. But they did not rebuild in the footprint. Grasewicz explained to the ZBA that he thought they had Select Board approval because they moved the house back slightly from the lake so it was less non-conforming; however, they enlarged the structure well beyond the size of the original structure. There was a question about the septic system and the LUA was not certain about whether DES Subsurface knew about the change in the size of the dwelling or was going on the assumptions from the original plan when they approved a two-bedroom septic system for 10 Spicer. The LUA told Members that the ZBA has already taken a site walk with Grasewicz to guide them.

**Property Updates:** Nothing new beyond the Lion offer discussed as new business.

**Site Walk Reports:** None

**Dog Waste Cleanup Bags:** Lindquist told Members that there has been more usage recently and he will soon be trying the new bags that were purchased.

**Budget Reports:** The Chair asked whether a budget was submitted and the LUA said that she did not have it. The Chair asked that one be brought to each meeting. The LUA promised to get the expenses and scan and email to members.

**Other Business: Prime Wetlands:** Lindquist asked Silverman if she had heard anything about Prime Wetlands. Silverman told members that the legislation (HB326) has moved out of committee with a reasonable number of votes. Silverman said Rick Van de Poll says the legislature votes on moving the Prime Wetlands legislation forward tomorrow [March 21, 2019].

**Correspondence:** None.

Vaney stepped forward. She gave a presentation about bittersweet. Heil pointed out that it is oriental bittersweet that is a major problem in New Hampshire. It is a killer; it strangles trees. She showed a map of Fitzwilliam that shows places with bittersweet and indicates the extent. She pointed out that people are frustrated, but do not know how to eradicate oriental bittersweet. She told members that she spoke with the state species investigator.

Silverman asked for more detail including what kind of herbicide might be used.

Kotila gave some suggestions. Silverman suggested that Vanney get a team together as this would be a large project because of the numerous sites and extent of the bittersweet and knotweed in Fitzwilliam.

Zug asked if members could say they support this effort to rid the town of invasive species. And members agreed that they can support the effort to do something about invasive species such as oriental bittersweet and Japanese knotweed.

**Adjournment:** There being no additional business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Hayward  
Land Use Administrative Assistant