

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2018

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Lisa Oden, Karen Miller, David McTigue, Jack Messe, Michael Bara, Matt Oliveira, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Representative)

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Lisa made a motion to approve the minutes. Bob seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Bob indicated the Commission does not have a lot of activity right now and it would be a good time to educate each other on land protection. He stated protecting land is the most important thing the Commission does.

David reported the Conant Hill property may be a potential property worth protecting. Karen noted that is the property she had in mind but felt the Commission may have trouble with outreach due to the fact the Conservation Commission did not oppose the pipeline project. She noted there are many landowners with potential lands for protection and feels the Commission should be mindful when approaching the landowners for a potential conservation easement. Bob stated the Commission was not opposed and they were not for the pipeline and in most cases if people want their land protected and do not have the funds, they may take an offer from the Commission to aid in protecting it. Karen disagreed.

Bob questioned David's choice of the Conant Hill property for potential protection and David stated the property's value, view and its proximity to the Wapack Trail. Bob noted he has tried calling the owner but will reach out to him again regarding a possible easement on the property.

David mentioned another parcel for a potential easement he had in mind was land located by the Gridley River towards Sharon, which is located on a large aquifer and has a high habitat value.

Michael noted a parcel on River Road of 106 acres for potential protection and Bob added he is still interested in that land; however, he believes it may not be in imminent danger since the land is not easily accessible.

Bob asked Karen for an update on the MtBE situation and Karen stated she should be hearing from NHDES soon and would report as soon as she hears back.

Bob asked members to compile their own criteria for land protection and submit/discuss at the next meeting. Members agreed. Bob stated he believes the Commission should send out a letter to landowners who have ideal land for protection.

Bob reported he made a visit to the Johnson property and noted the gate was open and there were two trucks in the field, adding this is causing a problem as homeowners have complained about people going up there at night. Members discussed installing a gate made of two telephone poles with a chain across to keep people from continuing down the road.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola