

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2018

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David McTigue, Michael Bara, Karen Miller, Jack Messe, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Rep), Lori Rautiola

ABSENT: Matt Oliveira

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office on October 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports:

New Business: Bob reported a resident on River Road has placed a bridge across the Souhegan River to access their property and has gone through Stone's Landing (conservation land) to put the bridge in place. He continued stating one end of the bridge is on town property which is a violation. Bob noted there may be an easement that was given to the property owner before it became conservation land which would be grandfathered. Bob stated he will contact the town attorney to see if an easement would be grandfathered. He mentioned the bridge sits low to the Souhegan and was concerned when the water table rises, branches and debris may get caught up under the bridge causing water to rise and flood the road. David questioned whether or not the owner would need a Shoreline Protection Permit and Bob responded it does not apply to bridges adding there should be a cease and desist order on the project until proper permits are in place including a building permit because the bridge is a structure. Bob stated the issues should be resolved sooner rather than later.

Annual elections were held. Bob made a motion to nominate Michael Bara, Kleta Dudley and Lori Rautiola as alternate members. Karen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jack made a motion to nominate Bob Boynton as a member for a three year term. Karen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jack made a motion to appoint Bob as Chairman. Karen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Bob made a motion to appoint David McTigue as Vice Chairman. Jack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Lands: Bob recalled an email from Lisa Oden regarding the Johnson Property. In the email it was noted there was a complaint from a neighbor that worming syringes and plastic containers were found in and around a pile of manure. Bob stated he wanted to apologize to Cindy Alzepiedi for not responding sooner to her email. He continued stating in the future if a resident makes a complaint or has an issue with something related to the Commission, the proper protocol would be for them to contact Lori at the Town Office and she will route the issue through the town. All emails, etc. need to go through Town email and public domain. Bob noted he made a site visit to the property, and asked Mr. LeClair if he was aware of anything toxic in the manure. Mr. LeClair checked the property and reported back to Bob with no findings. Bob noted if anyone sees violations or issues they should take pictures.

Bob noted Ms. Alzepiedi asked if hunting was allowed on the Johnson Property. Bob stated the only property he is aware of that does not allow hunting is the Williams Property. Bob will send a letter to Ms. Alzepiedi.

The 2019 budget was reviewed. Bob stated he has requested a new line item be added to the budget for GIS software/support for \$400. Members agreed the budget will remain the same as 2018 with the new line item for software/support.

Trails: There was discussion on creating a trail map of conservation lands. Bob noted some of the trails are not in very good shape and could use some maintenance and updated signage. Karen noted cleaning trails would be a good project for the Cub Scouts. Members discussed having a hard copy map and/or creating maps through an app on smartphones. Bob noted Motion X is a good app that works well and is inexpensive through the app store. Bob displayed a map on GIS glue demonstrating features that can be added to the trail map such as protected land. Members agreed to hike the Nussdorfer Trail together on Saturday November 3, 2018. Lori will send a reminder prior to the hike.

Water Resources: Karen reported several towns in surrounding areas are required to have a water quality test done before the occupancy permit is issued. Bob questioned who handles the occupancy permits and Lori responded the Building Department does. Karen stated she would look further into it and gather more information.

Bob reported a wetland permit has been submitted by Liz Freeman, 410 Ashby Road. Karen stated she was familiar with the site; members had no issues with the permit and agreed to sign off on the application. Bob noted he will come in the following day to sign the application.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola, Land Use Clerk