

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
November 14, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office on November 14, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the October 10, 2018 meeting were reviewed and the following corrections were made: under Committee Reports, third sentence remove the word “not”. Last paragraph on page one, second sentence, change the sentence to read... “Does not allow hunting”. Last page, second paragraph replace “Kleta with Karen”. Karen made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

New Business: The new bridge (off River Road) was discussed. The parcel of land abuts the Town Conservation land (Stone’s Landing). Bob stated his concern with the bridge was whether or not the owner has an easement to cross the Town Conservation Land. He added in May of 2016 the previous owner emailed the Selectman asking for a right of way to access the property and was denied.

Mr. Cory Ritz, resident of New Ipswich and President of the Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC) was present. SoRLAC reviews projects along the Souhegan River. He reported he spoke with NHDES and they assured him the owner did not need a shoreline permit as it was less than 100 sq. feet of impact. Mr. Ritz stated he was very surprised to find out the Advisory Committee did not get a chance to review a project of this nature.

It was noted the owner would like to put a hunting camp on the property. There was discussion on the bridge being able to carry the load of emergency vehicles and the low clearance of the bridge. Matt questioned if the bridge was legal to be there and Bob responded the Commission is in the process of having the land surveyed and a title search done to determine whose property the bridge is being accessed from.

Bob asked Lori to remind the Selectmen and Planning Board of the May 2016 correspondence regarding access to the property. Lori will follow up. Bob stated he is not confident the 2016 survey of the property is accurate and is also not convinced there is an easement for the owners to access their property.

Future Tasks and Events: Bob recalled the “Land Criteria Worksheet” and proposed the Commission reduce the complexity of the worksheet. He added he will combine the information the Commission has gathered already and bring to the next meeting for discussion.

Trails: The Commission revisited the trail maps. Kleta reported she downloaded and tried the Motion X app. There was discussion on mapping trails. Bob stated the reason the Commission would create a trail map is to inform the community where the trails are located and it helps attract the residents to Conservation Land. Bob displayed a trail map he created on GIS showing way points, trail heads, junctions, mile markers etc. He explained to members how to navigate around and create trail maps. The maps will be geo-referenced with coordinates. Bob noted the trails will need to be properly marked and will need regular maintenance.

Mr. Ritz offered his knowledge of streams and stated if the Commission needs any assistance in the future pertaining to water he would be happy to assist.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola