

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
November 13, 2019

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Jack Messe, Karen Miller, Matt Oliveira,
Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Rep), Bert Hamill (Selectmen's Liaison) Lori Rautiola, Secretary
ABSENT: Michael Bara, David McTigue

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office on November 13, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Ed Rogers, Coach of the Robotics Club and his team were present. Mr. Rogers thanked the Commission for allowing his team to come in. He continued stating the team is entered in a competition and one of their challenges is to build a lego robot. He explained the theme this year is called "City Shaper". The team is challenged to prepare a project of a building or space in their community that has a problem and propose a solution for it. One of the requirements of the team was to share their proposal with an organization in their community.

The students explained their proposal that would solve two problems, providing a police station for our Police Department, as well as a community center for all residents. The building would be 6,000 square feet in size and located at the corner of Tricnit and Old Tenney Road. The students expressed their concerns and the need for Police Department; adding the PD has had to work in a space that is too small and insufficient for their needs for the past ten years. The children continued stating the community is also lacking a community center. The location of the project would be centrally located with access to a field across the street for soccer teams so they would not have to play on the baseball field. The children gave exceptional details of how the building would benefit the residents in town, such as; if someone has a home fire, the community center could house residents so they would have a place to stay. It would also be available to families that have suffered tragedies until they get back on their feet. The facility would have public computers for people that do not have internet access and a generator would be installed for backup in case of a power loss.

The Commission commended the team on a job well done. Bob noted it is very encouraging that such young people are thinking about the needs of the community and stated maybe they can teach the older people what to do. Bob encouraged the team to reach out to the Commission if they had any questions regarding wetlands or conservation land.

Committee Reports:

Lands: The Commission briefly discussed the monitoring of Conservation lands. Kleta reported she walked the Williston Property and conducted a report with pictures. Bob noted finding the GPS coordinates of where the pictures are taken would be helpful for future monitoring and offered Kleta some assistance in how to find the coordinates.

Bob displayed the GIS layers map of the town paying attention to the discrepancies or "holes" in the database. He stated this happens due to the information that is being submitted to Southwest Regional Planning Commission and it not matching up with the town tax maps.

The Commission discussed if there was a need to have a Natural Resource Inventory done in town. Bob stated a NRI is very costly and almost outdated due to the fact we have access to GIS. A hardcopy NRI is only good for so long before it is outdated; GIS is consistently being updated. Kleta questioned the fact that there are no "boots on the ground" to see what is really there. Karen agreed and stated there is value in having "boots on the ground" to see what is in a vernal pool or pond/stream or wetland areas. Bob noted if there is an area of concern we could hire a wetland scientist to go out and make that determination. Bert noted drones are great for mapping out wetlands where the "boots on the ground" cannot go and you can plot latitude and longitude. There was discussion on drones.

Bob stated he would like to see the Commission find a prime wetland to protect this year, adding the parcel down near the Souhegan River would be a great candidate. There was discussion on the bridge that went in last year over the Souhegan.

Bob mentioned he would like to find some land to protect in 2020. Matt agreed and suggested looking on GIS to locate any undeveloped land and narrow it down from there. Matt stated most of the land in town has been developed. Bert mentioned the Select Board is seeking to add a commercial/light industrial district behind the dump off of Route 123. Bob encouraged the Commission to learn to use the GIS glue layers to find properties for protection. Matt stated the sooner the Commission can find a piece of land the better, soon all land will be developed. Matt and Bob had a brief discussion on the time it takes to find a parcel to protect. Matt suggested at the next meeting the Commission should use GIS to determine a piece of land and start moving forward with it. Bob suggested Matt bring a list of properties to the next meeting. Matt was frustrated with the amount of time it has taken the Commission to find a parcel to protect and stated there has been a lot of talk but no action is ever taken. Bob stated it takes a lot time and members should be researching on their own time.

The 2020 budget was discussed. It was determined the budget would remain the same at \$1,133.00.

It was noted the Board of Selectmen did not appoint Lori Rautiola as an Alternate because she is no longer a New Ipswich resident.

Bob stated the Commission has an invoice before them from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for membership dues in the amount of \$325.00. Matt made a motion to pay the invoice. Karen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bob questioned if it was still worth donating to the Monadnock Conservancy. Bob mentioned he would call to find out what the benefits of having a membership are.

Jack made a motion to approve the October 9,2019 minutes as written. Karen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola
Secretary

