

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
February 12, 2020

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

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office on February 12, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Karen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

New Business: Bob mentioned a forestry project that is currently taking place off of Binney Hill Road. He was concerned with the process of how the Intent to Cut Forms are filed through the town office. He continued stating due to the fact it is a forested wetland, it is not required to go through the Conservation Commission, it goes directly to the Board of Assessors and they approve it without any knowledge as to whether or not there are wetlands on the property. Bob has asked Lori to be placed on the Board of Assessor's agenda to discuss the process and to see if it would be possible to change the process of the submission of the Intents to Cut. Bob mentioned it would make sense to have the Conservation Commission do a field inspection of the property before the intent to cut is processed by the Board of Assessors.

Lands: Bob demonstrated a mock sign he had designed for town conservation lands. The signs will be placed on the trees throughout the forest to show the land is protected by the NI Conservation Commission. Lori gave Bob an updated cost analysis of the signs. Bob noted the Commission would need to order about 600 as the signs will be posted every fifty feet throughout the forest.

Bert mentioned the Select board was approached by Kenny Lehtonen regarding a parcel of land off of Sharon Road and was looking to gain access to part of the town owned land via an easement. Bob mentioned he would not recommend Mr. Lehtonen be anywhere downgradient of the landfill.

Bob reported he had created another layer on GIS. He tagged the properties in town that were larger than 25 acres and still undeveloped. Bob explained how important it is for members to learn how to navigate the GIS layers and how easy it is to locate a potential property for protection by using it. There was discussion on potential lands for protection. Bert questioned how having an easement on your property can save a property owner tax money. Bob explained if an easement is put on the property it can no longer become land for a potential subdivision so the market value drops substantially.

Signs: David noted the Nussforfer sign is ready and will be hung this spring.

Old Business: Bob noted spring is coming soon and members should be ready to monitor their properties. Members discussed the form used for monitoring properties. There was discussion on the monitoring form that is currently used when conducting a field inspection. Karen stated she would like to keep the form as simple as possible. Bob responded simple is fine, providing it shows all the information needed,

such as GPS coordinates. He continued stating the use of cell phones to monitor properties is a great asset in this day and time. Members agreed it is important to record their finding on the form and continue to keep them on file at the Town Office.

Bob stated he has been trying for some time now to get the Town to move forward with GIS because it is an important part of our growing technology. Bert agreed and mentioned the topic has been brought to the Select board's attention several times. Bob clarified he was referring to the GIS mapping not updating the errors on the tax maps.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola,
Secretary