

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

August 12, 2020

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David McTigue, Chairman, Matt Oliveira, Karen Miller, Jack Messe, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Rep), Shawn Talbot (Ex-Officio) and Debbie Deaton, Secretary

ABSENT: Michael Bara

Also in attendance-Alden Beauchemin, Keyland Enterprises, LLC

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:30 p.m.

Debbie read the Covid-19 Right to Know Checklist.

Jack made a motion to accept the July 8, 2020 minutes as written. Kleta seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business:

Bob introduced Alden Beauchemin from Keyland Enterprises, LLC. Alden informed the Board he had submitted a Shoreland Application to NHDES in order to reconstruct a new cottage with a garage and other site improvements at 155 Lower Pratt Pond Road. He described the plan (meets all setbacks, rules and regulations) and Bob shared the plan on his screen. Bob asked Alden about buffers for fertilizer and chemicals. Alden stated he was aware of the 25 foot setbacks and he will make a note on the plan stating this. Kleta mention the Souhegan River Authority usually asks property owner to put up flags as a sort of permanent reminder to mark the setbacks. Debbie asked if the old septic system would be removed or just abandoned. Alden replied the old tank will be pumped out and removed as well as the gray water discharge pipe.

Bob stated he has found an app called Basemap. It's a good reference tool but also shows how our tax maps don't line up with the known coordinates of the wetlands, rivers, etc. in town. Bob shared his screen showing several parcels across the United States and the information you can get by hovering on a parcel. He also pointed out how the streets line up with the parcels whereas the roads in New Ipswich are not lined up, parcel boundaries are in the middle of houses, etc.

He reiterated the fact that the Conservation Commission had voted to pay for half of the map updates as proposed by CAI Technologies. Bob has checked with the New Hampshire Municipal Association to be sure they can use funds from their accounts. There will be a presentation done by CAI Technologies at Mascenic High School on September 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Shawn said the Selectmen argue that it's not of any value to the tax base. He told John and David that this is a tool to help our volunteers and board members do their jobs more efficiently. Shawn also mentioned it was brought up that UNH Coop does the same thing for free. Bob said we should have professionals do this because students would be doing it through UNH and you would have various levels of knowledge when this process is being done. Sometimes, you get what you pay for. We are trying to get accurate tax maps and this is worth spending the money. Kleta mentioned even if we used college kids to do the mapping, we would still have to pay someone every year to update the subdivisions, lot line adjustments, etc.

Shawn asked if there are any other companies out there that do this mapping process. Bob responded we could try to define the parameters and put out an RFP to get other quotes.

At Bob's request, Debbie sent out an email to the Board with the two different colors (red & green) for the signs. Bob got a quote from someone in Hudson which was \$22 and another quote from someone in Hudson which was 3 times as much.

Jack, Kleta, Matt, Bob all voted for a green sign. Karen said as much as the green sign is more in line with the Conservation Commission, she feels the red would bring more attention to it. David said he prefers red but is ok with the green.

Jack mentioned the river sign near Smithville is missing. Bob said the Commission should buy a new sign. Shawn asked Bob about the wording on the Dam Site #35 sign. It currently says "per order of the Board of Selectmen" but it should be put before the Selectmen for approval if that's what the ConCom wants it to say. Bob said he can change it to say "per order of the Conservation Commission" if need be.

The Commission will come up with what they think should be the appropriate fine or punishment and present it to the Selectmen.

Permits:

Bob mentioned the joint meeting regarding permitting held on August 28th. He would like all permits to be sent to the Conservation Commission prior to approval to be desk checked for wetlands, rivers, aquifers, etc. The goal is to prevent problems before they arise. He shared his screen using a problem that recently occurred and the discrepancy of the location of the wetlands in relation to our flawed tax maps. We know the protected land is accurate because it has been georeferenced.

Karen suggested the board offer to show map discrepancies to the Selectmen. Debbie agreed and said Bob should get in touch with Tim at CAI to give him specific examples he can use during his presentation. Shawn suggested all boards should give a list of reasons to the Selectmen why the mapping would benefit each board.

Bob thinks it should be standard protocol to send a letter to the logger and property owner when an intent is desk checked and wetlands are on the property. Bob asked Debbie to call the DRA to find out if the Conservation Commission can go on property where there is an Intent to Cut. Also ask if we can request a cutting plan for an Intent.

Trail Markers:

The Board needs to get started on putting the trail markers up on the Williams property.

Karen made a motion to make Debbie an alternate on the Conservation Commission. Kleta seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Debbie will be sworn in prior to the next Conservation Commission Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Deaton