

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 9, 2016

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, David McTigue, Jack Messe, Matt Oliveira, Lisa Oden, Lori Rautiola, Klea Dudley
(SoRLAC Representative)

PUBLIC: Karen Miller

Bob made a motion to nominate Lisa Oden and Karen Miller as members to the Conservation Commission. Karen's term to expire 2017 and Lisa's term to expire 2018. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7:35 pm- Bob gave a presentation on How to find Conservation Land. Some of the sources are as follows:

Sources of Conservation land:

- A) Contacted by Landowners.
- B) Town acquired land through tax lien.
- C) Land for sale.
- D) Land that may be donated.
- E) Proactive search for land with rich natural resources.

Criteria for Conservation Land:

- 1) Does the land overlay an aquifer?
- 2) Does the land abut rivers, streams, lakes, ponds?
- 3) Does the land have wetlands, if so what are the sizes of wetlands?
- 4) Does the land have vernal pools?
- 5) Is the land threatened or endangered species?
- 6) Does the land have notable summits?
- 7) Does the land have prime agricultural soils?
- 8) Does the land have outlooks?
- 9) Does the land have cultural or historical value?
- 10) Is the land part of a view shed?
- 11) Is the land identified in NH Wildlife Action Program?
- 12) Types of habitat.
- 13) Would protecting the land help protect the water shed?
- 14) Does the land support forest management?

Bob suggested members come up with a list and then vote on it so the Commission has a policy of what the criteria is when looking for conservation land. Some guidelines are as follows: 1) Does the land meet two or more of above land criteria? 2) Does the land abut or provide linkage to existing protected land? 3) Is the land threatened in any way? 4) Protection would benefit a wide range of people and uses. There is no definitive size for conservation land although 20-30 acres would be a good size. Bob suggested some methods for analyzing are go to websites such as NH fish and game, Department of Environmental Services and also other Towns websites. From a financial aspect, the Commission can

purchase land or a landowner may come to the Commission wanting to put land into an easement. The Commission could partner with someone else looking for financial assistance. It could also use current use funds to purchase conservation land or funding from a warrant article.

Bob answered Karen's question regarding the layers on the pipeline map on the Town website and suggested she upgrade her browser. Bob projected a map of the town with the pipeline route and demonstrated how to find a certain parcel on the map and focus in it. He also demonstrated how to add the aquifers, wetlands, and natural resources and other land types to the map using the layers. This can help in determining the value of a property and a potential conservation property. The overlay maps indicate the pipeline is going through some high valued land. Bob continued to show the members how to use the overlay maps and discussed some potential conservation lands.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Rautiola, Secretary