

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 9, 2016

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David McTigue, Lisa Oden, Karen Miller, Jack Messe, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Representative), Lori Rautiola

ABSENT: Matt Oliveira

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting were reviewed and the following corrections were made. First paragraph under Committee Reports remove... "because it removed the language problem and explained it more clearly." In the third paragraph replace the word reinforcement with enforcement. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Lisa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Trails: David reported he had completed the spreadsheet of signs showing which ones are complete and ready to hang. He added he would contact Peter Goewey for help installing the signs.

Lands: Bob gave an update on the Green Crow Property (about 500 acres) that it is now officially protected by Northeast Wilderness Trust. He also noted if we add this 500 acre parcel to the 1200 acre Hampshire Country School parcel and the 10 acres Williston Property, it adds up to 1710 acres of protected land.

Bob questioned the members if Conservation Easements should always be required for lands acquired by the Town for conservation purposes, adding is it worth spending \$7,000 on the land and then putting an easement on it for \$15,000. Karen noted it depends on the type of the land, where it is located, what is it surrounded by, etc. Members agreed and Bob noted if the land is not easily encroached upon it may not be worth spending money on. However if there is a property that could potentially be used as a future soccer field for example, then it may worth putting it into a third party easement. The members agreed it would be best to determine on a parcel by parcel basis if the property should have a third party easement or not.

Water Resources: Bob suggested adding a map with labels of streams to the stream buffer ordinance to make it more concise. Karen noted maps were discussed at the Planning Board meeting and they agreed maps should be referenced at the Town Office. David suggested the ordinance read "according to the latest version of the map." Bob added to check with the Planning Board and to keep a map in the ordinance.

Bob questioned if there has been discussion at the Planning Board meetings regarding groundwater protection in general or if it has been strictly on aquifers. Karen responded, not at this point, they are focused on the aquifers. Bob mentioned he had a discussion with Liz Freeman regarding refueling. David

responded that is a moot point as it does not apply to individual residences and the Planning Board wants this ordinance for commercial use only. Bob disagreed.

There was discussion on restrictions and best management practices and whether or not timber harvesting had different restrictions. Bob noted there is a lot of spillage when these trucks are clearing many acres of land and refueling several times. He added the Commission is trying to protect the aquifers with this ordinance and does not want to leave any loop holes.

Old Business: Bob suggested Lori get a quote for the Commission's new logo to be put on letterhead.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola