



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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APPROVED Minutes of the May 16, 2012 Conservation Commission Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brown (Chairman), Ryan Bernstein (Trail Intern), Rick Anderson, Dan Allen, Andy Deegan, Terry Dancy, Laura Alexander, Sue Clough, Ruth White, Peter Stanley (Zoning and Planning Administrator), Emma Crane, Bob Crane (Webmaster)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Review of Minutes of April 16, 2012

Page 1 – Miller Property should read “Mr. Miller, who owns property on Stony Brook Road.”

Page 2 – Lumber Supply: 2 x 8 x 14 for the price of 2 x 8 x 12.

Page 4 – Mr. Allen said that Ms. Hallquist...took them to Clark Pond Trails.

Page 4 – Colby-Sawyer Students chose Ryan Bernstein as the trail intern.

Page 3 – Invasive Species: Cygan and Bruleigh are the proper ways to spell last names.

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Emma Crane) to approve the minutes of April 16, 2012, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Meeting May 9, 2012

Chair Brown thanked Mr. Stanley and Ms. Alexander for providing information about the warrant articles. All three articles passed in favor of the Conservation Commission.

2012 Conservation Commission Terms

Chair Brown said that there are four terms that expire this year, including Dan Allen, Andy Deegan, Rick Anderson and Terry Dancy. He asked that these people to make their wishes known with regards to their staying or departing the Commission. Mr. Stanley noted that Ms. Crane’s position on the Planning Board was up as well. Ms. Crane said she would like to remain on the Planning Board. Mr. Allen said he was undecided as to whether he would stay or not. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Deegan said they would remain on the Commission. Mr. Dancy said he would remain on the Commission but would give up his spot if there was someone else who wished to join.

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Andy Deegan) to approve Emma Crane as the Conservation Commission’s Representative to the Planning Board for another term. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Brown asked if anyone else would like to serve as Chair of the Conservation Commission. No one did. A motion was promptly made to appoint Bob Brown again, as Chair.

IT WAS MOVED (Laura Alexander) AND SECONDED (Emma Crane) to appoint Bob Brown as Chairman of the Conservation Commission for another term. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Brown said that due to the fact that Mr. Stanley would be leaving as Staff Advisor to the Commission, he anticipated that he would be asking for more help from the members in the interim.

Easements/Acquisitions

Low Plain – This easement has been paid. Mr. Stanley said they are waiting for the easement to come back for the signature. It has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Phillips Preserve – The article passed at Town Meeting for conservation easements. Mr. Deegan said this was approved by Ausbon Sargent in March. Mr. Stanley said that the ownership error for the right of way to the land that was gifted to the Town has still not been resolved between the Crowells and the Town.

It was determined that the Reed property (a little less than 2 acres) had not been surveyed. Mr. Deegan said that Ausbon Sargent likes for the properties to be surveyed and so there were two options: they could go and have it surveyed then or they could go forward with what is surveyed. At some point in the future when they want to they can survey it along with the Crowell piece and create an amendment, which wasn't a big issue. Mr. Deegan said they already have the warrant to put the land-locked piece to include it with the entire parcel. Mr. Stanley thought the surveying could be done for about \$3,000. He suggested using Clayton Platt or Pierre Bedard to do this work. Mr. Deegan agreed to contact Mr. Platt.

Chair Brown wanted to see if they could pay half of the stewardship to Ausbon Sargent (\$5,000) in this current budget. Mr. Stanley said to make sure the invoice is dated before June 30th.

IT WAS MOVED (Emma Crane) AND SECONDED (Terry Dancy) to pay \$5,000 in stewardship to Ausbon Sargent with the flexibility of paying half during the current budget year and half after June 30th, 2012. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED. Andy Deegan and Laura Alexander abstained from voting due to their affiliation with Ausbon Sargent.

Little Sunapee Road – Chair Brown said that the Commission received communication from Mrs. Martha Harris, in response to a letter of interest sent to her in June. He felt it would be appropriate for the Commission to follow up with Ms. Harris to provide her with more information. Mr. Deegan agreed to do this.

Stony Brook Road – Mr. Deegan said that Herb Miller passed away. After his passing, Mr. Miller's son contacted him about conserving the property. His fiduciary responsibility requires that he get value from the property. The property is listed with Angelli Realty but he knows of a conservation-minded realtor who will keep an eye on the property. Should someone wish to purchase property to conserve it, he would notify the commission. The price of the property is \$750,000, including the house. Mr. Stanley opined that if anyone purchased the property it would be very expensive for them to develop it.

Chair Brown said he has been required to take an oath of secrecy about another parcel and would like to discuss it in a non-public session at the end of the meeting.

Low Plain Forestry Plan – Chair Brown said that Clayton Platt was not going to mark the trees. They need to find someone else to do this. Additionally, he noted that since they have spent some time at Phillips looking around, it is clear that the view is grown over. He wondered if they'd like to consider a selective cut in that area and if they'd like to do both of these cuts (Low Plain and Phillips) at the same time.

Sue Clough arrived at the meeting at 9:32am.

Mr. Deegan said that with putting the easement on the property there will be some advertisement about it. More people might go there and if there is a view, it would be nice. They also have the landing and the right of way, which are necessary infrastructure to get the cutting done. He would lean towards cutting in

Phillips. Ms. White said that Low Plain is nice and is more open. Phillips Preserve may be a little disappointing if there is now view. She agreed with Mr. Deegan that Phillips should be considered.

Ms. Alexander wondered if more than just a selective cut could be done at Phillips. Mr. Deegan said this could be done. Mr. Stanley said that this would help them to get a logger in to help. Ms. Alexander said that this could be an educational move for the town and they could offer a walk to demonstrate what responsible tree harvesting looks like. Mr. Stanley said the next step was to get a forester lined up. He suggested using Leo Maslin as he did the original thinning of that area. He would then mark the potential cut. Chair Brown said that he would keep the Board of Selectmen abreast of what they would be doing.

Chair Brown thought they should get together with Mr. Maslin within the next month. Mr. Deegan said he would like to be involved but it would be with regards to Ausbon Sargent and not with the Town. Ms. Alexander said she would be happy to do the initial walk. Ms. Crane said she would like to be involved but not in the next month. Mr. Stanley said he would like to remain involved with this. He said he would contact Mr. Maslin and notify him of this work and would forward Chair Brown's contact information to him. Ms. Alexander suggested contacting the neighbors of the area to notify them that this harvest would be happening. Mr. Dancy and Ms. White would locate the forestry plan, and get it to Ms. Jackman to scan and email to the Conservation Commission.

Mountain Road and Laurel Lane – Chair Brown said that there are two small properties on these roads owned by the Town on which they'd like to do some selective harvesting. Mr. Dave Carey said he would look at the properties to determine if this is worth doing.

Perambulations

Ms. White said that they need perambulations from Wilmot, Newbury and Sutton as they are up this year. Ms. Hallquist informed Chair Brown that the Board of Selectmen was appreciative of their efforts in doing this. Ms. Ruth said that records of perambulations are kept with the Conservation Commission files, as well as in another location kept by the Town. Ms. White said she would go check with Ms. Jackman and Ms. Hallquist to see if/where their files are being kept.

Chair Brown said that there is some ongoing discussion within the State as to doing away with doing perambulation. Ms. White said that it is still a state law and must be done every seven years. Mr. Allen said that there is no penalty for not doing it, however.

Budget

Chair Brown said they are on track and have expended 57% of their budget. They have about \$7,000 remaining.

Mr. Allen said that Cote & Reney are not out of business. They keep a limited stock but if a request is made they will work with the town.

Invasive Species

Mr. Anderson said he has received a lot of good feedback regarding the Knotweed guide he has created. He said he knows there are other invasive species around, but Knotweed seems to be growing by leaps and bounds. One thing that is a little vague in the guide is with regards to setbacks of surface waters. The best thing they can do is to make sure people know to continue cutting around these areas and not to spray. Mr. Anderson said that he would like the information to go out in early June so that people can start combating the Knotweed at this time, which seems to be the most effective. He plans to have this guide posted on the Conservation Commission's website and in the Intertown Record.

Ms. Clough asked what was happening on the Town level with Knotweed. Mr. Anderson said he has talked to Mr. Lee and the person from the State Roadside Species person. The state doesn't know what to do with it and it is overwhelming. He felt they were at a loss on how to deal with it. He indicated that the state plans to spray at 4-corners this summer as a test. There are regulations having to do with rights of way and permits and special certifications are needed in these areas.

Mr. Anderson felt that if enough people become cognizant of this Knotweed problem, they can raise more awareness with the Town and ask for ways to be able to dispose of cuttings properly. He noted that there are best practices recommended to deal with the Knotweed and its clippings. He suggested that this was a year of awareness for the town.

Trails & Projects

Chair Brown introduced Mr. Bernstein, Trail Intern, to the group. He has been working on trails for a week. They would talk more about this later on in the meeting.

Equipment and supplies, lumber

Chair Brown said that they are not out of lumber but are getting low. He thought it would be good to purchase more now and set it up to begin drying. He had a quote from Cote & Roney for about \$750.

NLH proposed power line trail

Chair Brown said that he had not heard any more from Mr. Denning (Recreation Director) regarding this trail. He would follow up on that.

Phillips Preserve signs/trail work

Chair Brown hoped that he and Mr. Bernstein could get the signs put up that week or the next, weather permitting. He would like to raise the height of the main sign at the entrance so it could be visible in the winter.

Clark Pond trail system

Mr. Allen said that the last time they spoke he had suggested that the intern work on these trails. He thanked Mr. Bernstein for moving the step-over. He said that the transplanted trees were looking good. He noted that many flowers and trees were budding and coming in.

Chair Brown said there continues to be substantial traffic coming in and out of this trail. Ms. Ruth said she has heard quite a few positive remarks about the trail from people who do geo-caching.

Trail maps

Chair Brown said the map for the Webb Forest Trail didn't print. He thought Mark Vernon had the electronic copy. Mr. Dancy said that the text has changed but the map is the same. They chose not to re-print it because the changes were so minor. Mr. Crane said that there are maps for every trail on the website. He has been waiting for the final electronic version of the Webb Forest Trail to include it there. Mr. Crane suggested that a note be put on the boxes where maps are kept on trails that ask people to check the website for the map if there are no paper copies left. Mr. Allen thought if they put one map encapsulated in plastic at the base of the Clark Pond trail. Ms. White felt the length of the trails would be nice to include.

Ms. White volunteered to get the map(s) plasticized if they were provided to her or she could get the map downloaded onto a flash-drive and bring it to Flash Photo to have it printed and plasticized. Ms. Crane suggested this be done for all the trails. It was decided to start with the Clark Pond and Clark Lookout trails and they would then decide if they should do more of them depending on the cost and effectiveness.

Media

Chair Brown said that the work-up on Clark Lookout in the Intertown Record was good. Ms. White remarked that she receives lovely notes from Ms. Vogel at the Intertown Record thanking her for keeping them up-to-date with the activities of the Conservation Commission. Chair Brown thought they should take advantage of any outlet where they could get free recognition.

Project List and Priorities

Mr. Bernstein asked about the section in the Bog that needs to be re-done. Ms. White said they would like to get it ready for next year and it would be good for him to work on it. Chair Brown said they would measure and cut new boards. Ms. White suggested checking on this trail frequently, especially after rain, to replace boards that disappear or need replacement.

Mr. Bernstein thought blazing should be done on the Kidder Brook Trail. He also noted that there was no sign at the entrance of the trail.

Chair Brown said the Kidder-Cleveland-Clough trail was still pretty wet. He guessed that water is still being held back by the beaver dam and suggested Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Denning go in to dismantle and/or check on the beaver status.

Crockett Brook Bridge

Mr. Allen talked with Mark Vernon that morning and found that when Mrs. Baxter returns, he will speak to her about getting permission to replace the bridge. He has also talked to Mr. Lee and Mr. Stanley to figure out logistics.

Great Brook Bridge

Mr. Allen said that they could remove the hazardous wires from the bridge.

MCDC work days August 31, September 7, November 2, November 9 (All Friday Dates)

Chair Brown said he may be calling around as these dates draw near to ask for help. He may not be around during some of the days the workers would be in town.

Programs

It was thought that having notices from the Conservation Commission put into the Intertown Record. Mr. Crane suggested something about being on the lookout for ticks while on the trails and the roadways.

Mail

Peter Blakeman has a wetland site plan for utility crossing at the Lake Sunapee Country Club. Mr. Stanley said this has to do with a wetlands crossing for a sewer line. He thought it better to have a sewer access at the property than to worry about a septic problem.

Next Meeting

Chair Brown indicated that he would not be able to make the meeting on June 20th, as was planned. If they wanted to have it on the 27th of June, he would be there. Everyone thought it would be good to postpone the meeting. The 9:00am time was suitable for everyone.

The July meeting was scheduled for the 18th at 9:00am.

Ms. Crane said a good friend of theirs is in the Tamworth Conservation Commission and she shared a program they offer to people who walk the trails. A patch is given for those who complete all the trails.

Many thought it was a great idea. Ms. Crane and Ms. White said they would work on this, including coming up with a catchy name for the area. Names could be submitted to Ms. Crane for the program.

IT WAS MOVED (Dan Allen) AND SECONDED (Andy Deegan) to move to non-public session, pursuant to RSA 91-a: 3 II, paragraph D. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Andy Deegan, Rick Anderson, Dan Allen, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Laura Alexander, Bob Crane, Bob Brown all voted YES.

Mr. Stanley and Mr. Crane were invited to stay for this portion of the meeting.

IT WAS MOVED (Emma Crane) AND SECONDED (Dan Allen) to move out of non-public session. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Andy Deegan, Rick Anderson, Dan Allen, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Laura Alexander, Bob Crane, Bob Brown all voted YES.

IT WAS MOVED (Emma Crane) AND SECONDED (Andy Deegan) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London