

Conservation Commission Minutes August 18th, 2015

Members present: Chair Susan Wilderman, vice chair Betsy Kruse, Dennis Lewis, Ellie Davidson, Dick Snow and recording Secretary Donna Del Rosso.

7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance. Dick Snow was seated as a voting member.

Public Comment Period:

Guest: Diane Philbrick

Diane speaking on behalf of the Heritage Committee would like to ask the Conservation Commission to join them in a group effort for a project to create a recreational map. This map would include areas for people to ski, snowshoe and walk/hike so the residents could enjoy the beautiful place we have right here in Candia. The kiosk could include information such as: habitat, flowers and birds that might make the residents interested in seeing or finding. Diane states it could be very simple at first, like the railroad beds, deserted roads and we could add on any town properties with trails etc. The Heritage Commission has already done trail guides for: East Candia, the Village, the Hill and are starting on Depot Rd. to include signature places. Dick stated we are currently working on trail maps and this would be a great opportunity to add more interesting attractions to invite residents to visit, maybe include some photos. We need to let residents know if it's private or public property to keep them aware. Betsy would be interested in helping, we could also keep adding to the trail guides as needed. Susan suggested "Walkabout Candia" instead of trail/recreational guide. Heritage Commission would take the lead with possible group meetings periodically to keep everyone on the same page. Deerfield Rd has a parking area, kiosk, a map for guidance with trails. This was a suggested set-up for all areas. CCC has decided by consensus to be a part of this project.

Regular Business:

Betsy motioned to accept minutes with revisions. Susan seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Conservation Land/Easements: Dick on behalf of the Massabesic water shed that abuts town property. The CCC would need to ask permission from the BOS to apply for a grant. It was decided at this time not to pursue this project. Betsy thought our best effort would be the greater threat of property with road frontage.

Wetland Permit Applications: Ellie did not receive any at this time.

Land Use/Wetlands/Enforcement Issues/Planning Board: Planning Board is looking for Steering Committee members for the Master Plan Committee. They are looking for 12-15 people. Dennis will keep the CCC updated with any progress or information.

Correspondence: Ellie reported the Southern NH Planning Commission is having it's 49th Annual meeting at The Yard on September 11th, cost is \$25 donation. She also received a pamphlet on Drinking H2O &

Groundwater H2O. Annual report of Rockingham Conservation Commission which included all their past projects and achievements. South East Land Trust 2014 Annual report, Ellie showed the commission an article that was sponsored by the Recreational Trails Program. She thought they might be able to assist with some of the projects we have on going.

Dick received an e-mail regarding Liberty Elms. Groups or Commissions would have to purchase the Elm trees to plant. Susan said they have one already at the School house next to the Congregational Church, and Dennis said there is also 2 at the Library. The commission did not want to at this time to purchase.

Budget: Dick motioned to pay Donna \$64.40 for the month of July. Ellie seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

The commission went thru the budget lines to be sent to Donna Becker for BOS/Budget Committee approval. Betsy motioned to recommend the same requested budget as last year (which was \$2404). Ellie seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dennis spoke with Sean James regarding the bridge on New Boston road. Sean does not feel we need a wetland permit as long as all the work is outside the stream bank. Dennis went down to measure, his suggestion was to put 2 large concrete or granite blocks outside the edge of slope, build a foot bridge and anchor to the concrete or granite blocks. Dennis suggested Hemlock pressure treated, it's stamped so it's rough and would not have any moss or be slippery. He estimates the cost at approximately \$2800. The CCC decided to wait at this time to see if areas nearby might be included down the line. The cost might be beneficial to complete another project.

The CCC decided to focus more on Hemlock Drive town property. Could we timber harvest it and generate some funds to help with bridges for the trails? This area could be set-up the same way as Deerfield Rd. Town Forest.

Susan suggested to have a walk or activity 4 times a year, to involve groups and community members to participate. This might be on the 3rd Saturday of Jan., May, Aug., and Oct. from 1-4 p.m. January might have a snowshoe walk, May might include the picture post and inform everyone what a picture post is, August maybe invite the Heritage Commission to walk on 1 of the trails the group has been working on, and October may include a work day on Hemlock Dr. The goal would be 10-15 people and to get established, so it could be a fun town wide activity. Dennis and Susan will check out Hemlock Rd to see what we would need before we invite the public. Susan thought maybe the grant opportunities might be available. Dennis will check with Bill regarding the grant fund availability. The CCC decided that the focus for the upcoming year would be Hemlock Dr.

CC Website: Susan has no new information regarding the town website, she will contact Catherine again.

Old Business:

Land Trust reports: Betsy reported on Sept. 12th they will be hosting Wes Cullen, he will be doing an edible plants workshop, lots of interest. It will be held at Grey Lag Cabins on Wild Goose Pond up in Pittsfield or Barnstead.

In the fall they will offer a couple of conservation options workshops, she will keep us informed.

Lamprey River Water Quality Initiatives: Dick said flyers with information regarding Sept. 19th clean up of Lamprey River have been mailed. The event has also been registered with American Rivers (which donated trash bags). Lisa Cote and her Cub Scouts would like to help but can't do it that day, Dick said they could probably do an area prior to that date.

LRAC – has currently 3 projects: Mennon Pond (sp?) dam has been replaced. North Wood Meadows dam needs to be replaced. New Market is working with LRAC for ongoing projects that include the Lamprey River.

Forest Management/Plans for Town Land/Stewardship: Dick gave the commission a drawing from Jim Franklin on Hemlock Dr.

Dennis suggested we need to think about the next area to timber harvest, over the winter we need to survey/walk the areas for best timber sales.

Dick brought in the town maps to discuss 2 town own properties near the old re-cycle center to be put under conservation commission management with a town warrant. Betsy wanted to clarify to have CCC just take management only not include an easement. The CCC would work on the wording of the article in draft form from Dick prior to town meeting.

Other Business:

2016 calendar/photo submissions: Donna had prepared a cd and showed the members pictures so far that have been sent in. Donna made copies of the calendar pictures wanted posters for members to hang around town for community involvement. We will still look for input from the residents regarding pictures. The CCC will decide in Oct which pictures will be used for the 2016 calendar.

Discussion regarding the funds needed for the calendar will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Mapping will be tabled till next month, for consideration with the Heritage Commissions plan for the mapping guides.

Ellie motioned to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Seconded by Betsy. No further discussion. Passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Donna Del Rosso