

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
March 5, 2013**

Chairman Steve Roy calls the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Chairman Stephen Roy, Vice Chairman Steven Hampl, James Ryan, Paul Lussier, Thomas Chase, Wini Young, Board Administrator Linda Smith, and Board Secretary Lisa Fellows-Weaver. Alternate Loren O'Neil arrives at 7:36 p.m.

Absent: Alternate Michael Matson

Mr. Roy makes a motion, second by Hampl, to adjust the order of the agenda. Motion passes unanimously; 6/0.

APPOINTMENT

Meeting with Town Forester, Charlie Moreno

Mr. Roy welcomes Mr. Moreno to the meeting. He explains that the idea behind this meeting is to meet with the town forester once a year to discuss goals and to set the stage for future projects.

Mr. Roy states that the commission has obtained two new parcels; Guptill Lamprey Pastures and the Low property. He provides an overview of the parcels relating to their locations and lot size. Mr. Roy states that there is value in looking in to the new lots relative to the conditions and what exists on the property. Mr. Roy states that the commission requested funding in the forest management line of the budget.

In addition, Mr. Chase notes that the commission has also been involved with easements on the Gallagher and Wallman properties, both independently held with easements. Mr. Roy adds that the Society for the Protection of NH Forests is the primary easement holder, and the town is the executive interest holder. He states that the town funded the acquisition of these two easement projects.

Further discussion is held regarding the existing forest management plan and the current data. Mr. Roy explains that the prior town forester updated the tables and stand maps in the forest management plan.

Mr. Moreno states that he is familiar with the lots noted in the town's management plan; the Parsonage Lot, School Lots, Giles Lot, and the Deslaurier Lot. He provides an overview of work completed over the past few decades. Mr. Moreno offers to do a walk-through of the recreation fields, Guptill, Low, and Giles properties.

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The commission concurs with the need for Mr. Moreno to do a walk through on the property and supports him conducting the walk through provided the town's budget passes with the appropriate line item costs for forest management.

Mr. Roy mentions that the town road agent has indicated that there have been some problems with trees taking out power lines along areas of Lucas Pond Rd. Mr. Moreno states he will contact the road agent regarding this area.

Ms. O'Neil arrives at 7:34 p.m.

Additional discussion ensues regarding the town forests. Mr. Roy explains that a town forest designation is specific to state statutes attributed to it. Ms. Smith explains that the town forests were set up via a warrant article to be managed by the conservation commission and the funds were to be handled by the board of selectmen. Recently there was a review done by town counsel, and they instructed that in the future the funds from a cutting would go into a special revenue account, and not into the general fund. Mr. Moreno adds that typically any revenue is used to maintain forests and improve habitats; however, the funds can be used for many purposes for the management of the land. Ms. Smith adds that originally when the fund was established there was specific language in the warrant article stating that any funds from cutting of town forests were to be under the control of the board of selectmen.

Copies of the updated forestry report completed by the prior forester and copies of the Guptill plan are to be provided to Mr. Moreno.

The commission and Mr. Moreno schedule the next meeting for June 4, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

February 5, 2013

Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Mr. Lussier, to approve the minutes of February 5, 2013, with revisions as follows:

Page 2: Add: *...been made aware...; Bear-Paw Regional Greenways*

Motion passes; 5/0/2. Ms. O'Neill and Mr. Roy abstain, as they were not at the meeting.

CONSIDERATION of APPLICATIONS

Sand Replenishment Application Mary Waldron Beach

Mr. Roy explains that he has been working with Recreation Director Kathy Coe, to complete an application for sand replenishment for Mary Waldron Beach.

Ms. Smith states that Ms. Coe is concerned with the timing as she would like to get this project completed as soon as the weather cooperates. Mr. Roy explains that the application should be a PBN and he explains the filing process.

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Ms. Smith suggests that the commission authorize the chair to sign off on the application when it is completed. **Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Mr. Ryan, to allow the chair to review and sign the application upon completion. Motion passes; 5/0/2. Mr. Ryan and Mr. Roy abstain.**

NEW BUSINESS

Land Fund Documents

Copies were provided to members last month for review. This item is carried over to the April meeting.

Schedule Site Walk – Guptill Property

Ms. Young requests that a walk be scheduled of the Guptill property with students from CBNA and commission members relative to trails. This item was continued to next month.

Gary Smith Property – Bow Lake Road

Ms. Smith provides a letter from the town administrator and a plan from 1974 relative to the Gary Smith property. She explains that there was a subdivision of land completed with a small section of land reserved for the purposes of open space. This land ended up not serving any function and was not put together as an open space subdivision. The end result was that the board of selectmen approached the Smiths in 1982 and offered the portion of the reserved land to be purchased. The selling price was agreed on for \$1,000.

Ms. Smith continues and explains that the Smiths have since built on and developed both pieces of land; the house lot and the reserved land. She adds that the taxes have been paid since 1982. She states that at this point in time the Smith were researching the title and it came to their attention that the deed that was conveyed by the selectmen for the reserved lot had never been recorded.

Ms. Smith states that the process now will be that a new deed will be created and the selectmen will sign the deed. She adds that at the 2004 town meeting the board of selectmen was granted the authority to sell property in the town. She states that there will need to be two public hearings held, which the state statute requires along with comments be provided from the planning board and conservation commission.

Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Mr. Roy, to provide comments to the selectmen, indicating that there are no issues with the property based on the conservation concerns; chair will sign the memo.

Lengthy discussion ensued as to the proper legal actions necessary for the conveyance to occur. Mr. Roy explains that the conservation commission is

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included in the statute to be involved due to the fact that there may be a concern for the land; however, not for any legal items as that is the jurisdiction of the selectmen. Mr. Roy recommends that if there are any other concerns by individuals they should attend the hearings. **Motion passes; 4/1/2. Ms. O'Neil is opposed; Mr. Ryan and Mr. Roy abstain.**

Members Terms

A discussion is held regarding members terms. **Mr. Roy makes a motion, second by Mr. Lussier, to send a letter to the selectmen noting the following term recommendations.**

James Ryan – regular member – term through March 2016

Thomas Chase – regular member – term through March 2016

Steve Hampl – regular member – term through March 2015

Motion passes unanimously; 7/0.

OLD BUSINESS

Land Acquisition-follow up

There is no additional information at this time.

Woodman Park-Lucas Pond Review of Pictures – Steve Roy

This item is continued to the next meeting. Ms. Smith states that she will continue to work on obtaining information to update the commission regarding the finances related to the Woodman Park project.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Student report – Wini Young

This item is continued to next month.

SPNHF Spring Training Session – Steve Roy

Mr. Roy states that he emailed the person in charge of the training and has not received a reply to date.

Water Sustainability Report – Jim Ryan

Mr. Ryan has not received the copy to date.

OTHER

Non-Public Session

8:46 p.m. Mr. Roy makes a motion, second by Mr. Lussier, to enter into a non-public session, per RSA 91-A:3, II(d).

Roll Call Vote

Stephen Roy - yes

Steven Hampl - yes

James Ryan - yes

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***Paul Lussier - yes
Thomas Chase - yes
Wini Young - yes
Alternate Loren O'Neil - yes
Motion passes unanimously; 7/0.***

9:12 p.m. Mr. Roy makes a motion, second by Mr. Chase, to come out of non-public session.

Roll Call Vote

***Stephen Roy - yes
Steven Hampl - yes
James Ryan - yes
Paul Lussier - yes
Thomas Chase - yes
Wini Young - yes
Alternate Loren O'Neil - yes
Motion passes unanimously; 7/0.***

Mr. Roy makes a motion, second by Mr. Lussier, to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Motion assess unanimously; 7/0.

Adjournment

Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Mr. Lussier, to adjourn. Motion passes unanimously at 9:14 p.m. Motion passes unanimously; 7/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Board Secretary