Town of Northwood

Joint Meeting ~ Conservation Commission and Master Plan Steering Committee March 4, 2024

There was no quorum of the Master Plan Subcommittee; Conservation Commission Chair Grace Levergood led the meeting.

Chair Levergood called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present:

Conservation Commission Members: Chair Grace Levergood, Vice Chair Wini Young, Members Mike Romano, and Tom Chase.

Master Plan Subcommittee Members: Planning Board Chairman Tim Jandebeur and Planning Board Member Betty Smith.

Town Staff Present: Land Use Supervisor Lisa Fellows-Weaver.

Master Plan Continuation

Tom Morgan of TMZ attended the meeting along with Liz Durfee of EF Design & Planning, LLC.

Ms. Durfee reviewed the survey questions and results of the natural resources chapter.

Discussions were held on how to incorporate the survey results into the chapter and the general plans for the chapter.

Specific discussion was held relative to how the Commission evaluates conservation projects and how properties are determined to be monitored or steward. Ms. Young provided an overview of the majority of properties monitored and maintained.

Other topics discussed were concerns of types of uses and/or activities or impacts that are occurring on properties. It was noted that there is concern for damage from ATV use/other off road vehicles and the need for maintenance due to degradation to the trails, as well as signage.

Funding for signage and enhancing parking lots was also noted.

Ms. Durfee asked about enhancing stewardship opportunities and barriers of improvement of conservation lands.

The Commission also discussed invasive species management along with the need for general education and education for prevention, treatment, and removal.

The Land Use Change Tax was noted as a funding source for the Commission; 50% is the amount currently transferred.

Additional discussion was held regarding open space, connectivity enhancements. Members noted open space, relating to future development, should be a topic for future discussions.

Ms. Durfee asked about establishing conservation land criteria. This is an item tht he Conservation Commission has been working on.

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Ms. Weaver noted the joint efforts of the Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission to host an Earth Day event on April 20. She asked if Ms. Durfee or Mr. Morgan would like to participate relative to conservation items, easements, master plan update, etc. Ms. Durfee offered to attend the event and will provide materials.

The next meeting of the Master Plan subcommittee is Monday, March 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn is accepted at 11:11 a.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Lisa Feltous Wearen

Lisa Fellows-Weaver, Land Use Supervisor