

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 9, 2023
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Commission Members Present:

Bill Fisher, Chairman
Blanche Tanner, Secretary
Gerry Vachon, Selectmen's Rep
Jim Pollard

Commission Members Absent:

Richard Ballou, Vice Chairman

Call to Order:

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Member:

Mr. Fisher introduced new member Jim Pollard and said that he has joined the commission in their time of need for members (hint! hint!). He said Mr. Pollard has vast hiking experience and asked Mr. Pollard how many of the mountains in NH he has hiked.

Mr. Pollard said he has hiked 44 of 48 4,000 footers in NH and he has hiked in the Belknap, Ossipee and Sandwich ranges and others nearby. He said one of the reasons he came in is because he was looking for maps of places to hike in Farmington and there was only one that he had heard of.

Mr. Fisher said the only other marked trail is the McCarthy Trail located behind the Public Safety Building which is a short mile and a quarter easy circle type trail and you can't get lost and if you do, take a left and you wind back up at the Police Dept. He thanked Mr. Pollard and said he appreciated him joining the commission.

Mr. Pollard said he believes in the outdoors and he likes to protect it and the animals. He said when he left to come to the meeting he had 5 deer on his property and that he feeds them in Jan. and Feb. when it is really tough for them in the cold weather and they can't get at their other food sources easily. I appreciate the animals he said.

Member Resignation:

Mr. Fisher said Blanche Tanner has come to the end of her term and is leaving the commission. He said Ms. Tanner joined the Con Com a little over a year ago when they were really needing help and she stepped up to the plate.

Ms. Tanner said she would keep her eye on this committee and if it gets down to where she

needs to jump in again she will do that.

Mr. Fisher said they have enjoyed working with her and he couldn't tell her how much he appreciated her joining them in their time of need. You kept the committee going he said.

Ms. Tanner said it was her pleasure.

Public Comment:

Mr. Fisher said no members of the public were present but he would keep the public comment open for the remainder of the meeting in case someone wanted to come in.

Review of Minutes:

January 12, 2023-Public Meeting Minutes- Page 1, Public Comment, paragraph 3, change "Pauley" to "Pollard"

Motion: (Tanner, second Vachon) to approve the minutes as amended passed 3-0-1 (Vachon abstained).

Old Business:

Cartwright Property Land Donation- Mr. Fisher said they are still in talks with the lawyers on taking over the 360+ acres off of Bay Road and Spring Street. He said they are still handling the legal paperwork but it is moving along and he hopes they will have it in the spring so they can start doing something out there like getting some trails in or manicuring the parking lot. We'll just have to wait and see what's going on with that he said.

Mr. Vachon said 2 weeks ago the engineers looking at potential sites for a new Town well attended the Selectmen's meeting and they asked them to take a look at the Cartwright property as a possible site as the donors are okay with possibly putting a Town well there.

Mr. Fisher asked if they can do that before the property belongs to the Town.

Mr. Vachon said they are just looking at the maps, the aquifer and the geology of the area.

Mr. Fisher said the Phase 1 study will be underway shortly and it is supposed to be done mid-Feb. to the end of March. He said the contract has been awarded for that and that will be starting shortly so they can start the beginning paperwork to take over the property. The Con Com voted the money from our funds which do not come from tax dollars but comes from other commission funds. That's the first step to getting it turned over to us and then verifying the boundaries and identifying the properties that were meted out for housing he said.

Mr. Vachon said that obviously they can't sink in test wells until we own the property and they are just looking at the topography and the water shed, etc.

Mr. Fisher said that will be a good thing as it would give us a well up north and some piping has to be installed to get to our tanks and things and that would be a shorter distance and it would be cheaper to run the piping if there is some good water up there which he would think it is because it's the Cocheco River aquifer.

Mr. Vachon said the aquifer is there it's just whether it would be a candidate and they are going

to start the preliminary study on that.

Mr. Fisher said he hopes they can get this going soon and get some trails out there that could bring in people from other communities that would patronize our businesses which would be a good thing for Farmington.

New Business:

Spring Cleanup- Mr. Fisher said it is getting to be that time of the year and usually in April they have a town cleanup so it's time to start thinking about that again. He said he may be unavailable due to some scheduled surgery but he will work around it and figure it out.

Mr. Vachon noted that Doug Staples is always willing to help with collecting the bags of trash.

Mr. Fisher said they will probably do as they have done for the last 2 cleanups and meet at the Municipal Office Building to get bags, gloves and vests and then go clean up the areas they want to clean up and some people pick up Main St. and Cocheco Rd. and then someone will go around with a truck and pick up the garbage and take it to the Transfer Station.

He said they have been averaging from 800 to 1,000 lbs. of trash from only 3 or 4 hours worth of work and that depends on how many truck tires they have to pick up. He said 1 year they picked up 44 truck tires and another year they picked a stove and front end of a Chevy truck, a bunch of tires and a few TV's. You never what you're going to find out there he said.

Mr. Pollard said he usually picks up along Waldron Rd. when he is going to the Transfer Station and once the snow leaves the ground you can see everything.

Mr. Fisher said if they get more members they may do a pick up in the fall before the snow flies.

Mr. Pollard said he was surprised to see that its everywhere and that people are out there drinking and throwing their beers out the window.

Mr. Fisher said there will be more information on this event at their next meeting.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

Mr. Fisher said he would like to put out a shout for more members. He said what you see in front of you is what they have except for one person who is absent. He said they are supposed to have 7 members and they would like to do a lot more with the town including some lectures on various conservation, farming and forestry topics or anything you would like to hear about and asked the public to suggest ideas for topics and they would try to find somebody to speak on it. But we need people to help organize that so we really need your help he said.

He said as mentioned earlier they are in the process of obtaining 360 acres of land and that's going to be a lot of trails and maintenance and the people you see here can't do it all by ourselves. He asked people to please think about joining and that it wouldn't take much of their time. He said if nothing is going on you're looking at 1 hour month and if there is a lot going on maybe 8-12 hours a month and that's not a whole lot of time.

Mr. Fisher said people complain that there is nothing to do in town and there is but we need to get ourselves and our kids out to maintain it. He said as mentioned earlier the McCarthy Trail is

a very easy walk on level ground and it's all marked. He said the Goodwin Library put story boards there so the young ones can read a story as they walk and they have some placards cutout as nursery rhyme characters that need to be put up out there for the children to look at. Please think about giving us a few hours of your time we really need help he said.

He said there are 3 regular member positions and 2 vacant alternate member positions that need to be filled so they are in need of 5 people. It's your town Farmington-we need your help he said.

Mr. Vachon asked if he knew if anyone has walked that trail since the storm to see if there are any trees down.

Mr. Fisher said he hasn't heard of anybody doing that and usually so many people walk it that they usually find out real quick.

Mr. Vachon said because of that heavy wet snow we had a ton of trees down and he would try to get out there if nobody else is going to.

Mr. Fisher said he knew of a lady that found a place that will donate 50 fruit trees to be put on Town properties and public areas and she is working on that all on her own and nobody asked her to do this. He said 2 places they were looking at are the McCarthy Trail and in front of the Municipal Office Building with the Selectmen's permission and the board has approved it so far. He said pulling an apple or a pear off a tree and eating it while you walk would be wonderful. He said there are good people out there, this is Farmington and we come together so if people have any questions his contact information is on the Town website under the Conservation Commission and to send him an e-mail and he will get back to them as soon as he can.

Upcoming Dates:

Reminder- Mr. Fisher said voting day will be on 3/14/23 and the Annual Town Meeting will be held on 3/15/23. He said there are several warrant articles submitted by the Planning Board and the Selectmen and 2 petitioned articles so it is important to attend the meeting and determine how our money will be spent and have a voice on other Town matters.

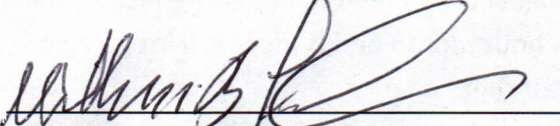
Next Con Com Meeting- Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers.

Mr. Vachon said he would like to welcome Mr. Pollard to the Con Com and thanked Ms. Tanner for the time she put in on this commission.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Vachon, second Pollard) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 6:21 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary



William "Bill" Fisher, Chairman