

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 8, 2022
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

Commission Members Present:

Bill Fisher, Chairman
Richard Ballou, Vice Chairman
Blanche Tanner, Secretary
Gerry Vachon, Selectmen's Rep.

Commission Members Absent:

Larry Fitzgerald, excused
Michael Harris

Others Present:

Dan Woodman, 500 Club President
Randy Talon, 500 Club member

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment: None

4). Review of Minutes:

August 10, 2022- Public Session Minutes- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Ballou, second Vachon) to accept the minutes as written passed 4-0.

5). Old Business: None

6). New Business:

Randy Talon of the 500 Boys and Girls Club- Mr. Talon and Mr. Woodman came forward to discuss their plans for the 500 Club property located on Paulson Road. Mr. Talon gave the members copies of the Conservation Easement Deed with Restrictive Covenants and then told the Commission that in 2002 the 500 Club purchased land on Paulson Rd. from Pike Industries and the Conservation Commission secured a lot next to them.

He said in 2014 the Commission allowed the club to use 3.35 acres of their lot for recreation and that is currently still under construction. He showed the members a site plan of the facility on Paulson Rd. and then displayed it so the viewers at home could see it.

He said the plan depicts the whole facility and 22 acres they acquired and the reason they are here today is the easement the Con Com has on their property, the whole area along Paulson Rd. has a lot of very tall pine trees and he had a forester look at them and some of them are starting to rot. He said his concern is for the children that are not playing soccer and are

a lot of it may be hollow or rotted. He's a friend of the 500 Club and is willing to help us he said. He said he met with the forester today to make sure this wasn't something he was going to "take a bath" on and it would be worth his venture. He said he didn't want to stump it because he didn't want to disturb the land and the forest mat and he would rather have it cut and try to make it as close to the ground as possible.

Mr. Fisher said driving through there he has often wondered why everything was hidden as it's a nice little park back there for the kids.

Mr. Talon said they have been there almost 20 years and...

Mr. Woodman said the problem is you have to go in to see the people doing stuff they shouldn't be doing there and that's another reason why.

Mr. Fisher said he didn't see a problem with this and that's not a wetlands area so they don't have to get involved with the state to do an Alteration of Terrain Permit for wetlands. He said it is such a small area he didn't know if they need to do an Intent to Cut Notice with the Town.

Mr. Talon said he thinks they do need to do that and that's no problem. He said the forester said he thinks they should do the Intent to Cut to err on the side of caution.

He said on the side where they allowed them to do football they hope to have that practice field done in 2023 and they are cutting that in now. He said Pike buried a lot of stumps there when they harvested it to get their mineral rights so they are getting those out and the pine trees on that side are something they would like to bring forward and they will keep it clean and they are going just along Paulson Rd. itself.

He said they were here to ask the Commission's opinion and they understand that even though they have this 6.56 acre easement that's encumbered they have no issue with it because they are all there for the same reason-the recreation and the use of the area.

He pointed to an area showing a baseball field and said it was old wish and is not true and there is no baseball field going there. He said it is going to be an all-purpose field for football, soccer, lacrosse and whatever.

Mr. Fisher said 5 or 6 years ago there was talk about connecting that area with the McCarthy Trails at the end of the Public Safety Building and maybe someday in the future they will look at that once again.

Mr. Talon said in 2002 they met with the Town and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and that he and his brother surveyed the area and there is a lot of upland and marshes and they talked about having wooden bridges connecting the uplands.

Mr. Fisher said maybe someday that will come to fruition and they are also working on 360 acres off of Bay Rd. and Spring St. He said the property connects the Town Forest with Spring St. and is being donated to the Town.

Mr. Talon said the club has a very limited budget and in a 2002 newspaper article he and Mr. Woodman said they would have it done in 3 years and here we are.

Mr. Fisher asked if there were any questions from the members. He then said he didn't see a

from of the Commission it is totally up to them because they are the holder of the easement. Mr. Fisher said in the past when they wanted to cut down a few trees they came and talked to the Con Com and that is all that (former Con Com Chair) Dave Connolly required at the time. As long as we are notified and I think this meeting satisfies that requirement he said.

Mr. Talon said if they wanted to "cross T's and dot I's" they didn't have any problem with supplying a letter to them and waiting 30 days.

Mr. Fisher said he wouldn't know where to keep it on record.

Mr. Vachon said they could bring it up under Old Business and attach it to the minutes at the next meeting.

Mr. Fisher then asked Mr. Talon to provide the Con Com with a one page letter stating per our meeting on this night we discussed the following and in accordance with our agreement we will start cutting on or about (insert date).

Mr. Talon said that might give people an opportunity for a 30 day grace period if anybody has any concerns or questions and so that covers the Con Com and the 500 Club. He said he would submit a plan with a letter.

Mr. Vachon said he was all for cutting down the trees especially when he has spent plenty of time up there but he just wanted it to be done legally. He said they could attach it to the minutes and keep it on file in case somebody goes looking for it.

Mr. Fisher asked if they need a motion to approve or if a consensus of members would be fine.

Mr. Vachon said the easement deed says they have to tell them they are going to cut and the way he reads it they can't tell them no, it just says they have to tell us they're going to cut. They reserve the right to remove trees they just have to notify the grantee within 30 days he said.

Mr. Fisher said since they have part ownership of the easement with the club if there is some money needed they do have funds but he would have to bring it up at meeting and have a vote on it to give them any funds.

Mr. Talon said they appreciate that but what might benefit them more would be when they get it all done to maybe dress it up if they wanted to make it usable to walk on. He said he thought the intent was to be able to come out here and get some fresh air away from the inner town and just enjoy watching the eagles fly or the deer run. Our goal is to have a walking track around this last field so people can come get exercise and enjoy the country he said.

Mr. Fisher said after it is all done in the spring they could see about going out there with a bulldozer and flattening it out a little bit.

Mr. Talon said that is what they intend to do there's just this one big dip right there.

Mr. Fisher said if the Town cleans up any dirt anywhere and needs a place to dump it maybe they could dump it there and fill in some holes. We've done that in the past at the Town Forest he said.

Mr. Woodman said they just found out today that somebody dumped some tar up there.

Mr. Talon said he would put together a letter tomorrow referencing their meeting tonight and

7). Upcoming Dates:

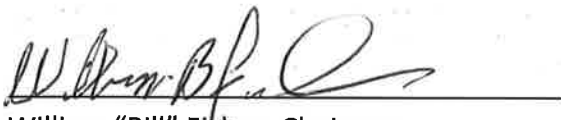
Next Meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2023

Mr. Fisher said he hopes everybody has a great Christmas and is able to be with their loved ones and he is going to CT for a week to visit his family. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and we will see you in January he said.

8). Adjournment:

Motion: (Vachon, second Ballou) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 6:39 p.m.

Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Fisher', is written over a horizontal line.

William "Bill" Fisher, Chairman