

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Commission Members Present:

Laura Bogardus, Chairman
Michelle Elbert
Bill Fisher, Secretary
Ann Titus, Selectmen's Rep.

Commission Members Absent:

Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman, excused
Tom Sorensen, excused
Richard Ballou, excused

Others Present:

Henry Wilson School Guidance
Counselor Sarah Gould, Kirt Emery
Esther Emery, Kirt D. Emery

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Bogardus called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment: None

4). Review of Minutes:

December 12, 2018 – No errors or omissions

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

5). Barry 4-H Camp:

Chairman Bogardus introduced Henry Wilson School grades 7-8 Guidance Counselor Sarah Gould, camper candidate Kirt Emery and his parents Esther and Kirt D. Emery to the members.

Ms. Gould said for at least the last 3 years, the Con Com has been sponsoring a Henry Wilson student for a week at the Barry 4-H Camp and that she and Mrs. Ellis alternate each year in picking one of their students as a candidate to attend camp. This year they decided to choose a 7-8 grade student and chose new student Kirt Emery as their candidate.

Chairman Bogardus asked how a student is chosen to be a potential camper.

Ms. Gould said the process was modified this year to where they narrowed down the large group of potential candidates by meeting with the students and discussing their interests and asking why they would want to attend camp. She added that Kirt also prepared an essay to share with the commission.

HWMS student Kirt Emery came forward and read his essay to the members. He wrote that the reasons he would like to go to camp include that he loves the outdoors because it is better than playing video/board games and the sun is good for people, camping is an adventure waiting around the corner and that he has never been camping and that he thinks it would be a good

experience for him.

Chairman Bogardus complimented Kirt on his essay and asked him how old he is.

Kirt said he is 13 years old.

Chairman Bogardus said she spoke with a camp representative who said there is still space available for this summer and that Kirt could choose one of two weeks to attend the camp. She said the first week available is for campers aged 10-16 titled "4-H on the Wild Side" which runs from July 14-19 and campers would go canoeing, fishing, sleep under the stars, learn how to observe nature, climb a mountain, swim in a pond, create nature crafts and more. The second week called "North Country Adventure" runs from July 28-August 2 where campers aged 12-16 can build their wood craft skills, tack wildlife, go on a canoe or backpacking adventure, learn trapping, hunting and survival skills, GPS and participate in fishing and hunting sports.

Chairman Bogardus said the camp must have his decision on which week he will attend by Feb. 1 but advised that the sooner she notifies them the better.

Kirt said he would like to attend the North Country Adventure week.

Chairman Bogardus said she would notify the camp and forward any additional information to Ms. Gould. She then informed Kirt that the commission would like him to prepare a display/presentation and attend their booth during Hay Day and talk about his experiences with the visitors to the booth.

Motion: (Fisher, second Elbert) to send Kirt Emery to 4-H Camp passed 4-0.

Mrs. Titus asked where the camp is located.

Chairman Bogardus said the camp is in Berlin, NH.

Motion: (Fisher, second Titus) to expend \$510 to send a camper to North Country Adventures on July 28-August 2, 2019 passed 4-0.

6). Old Business:

a). By-laws Vote- Chairman Bogardus asked if the members were satisfied with the bylaws as written. There were no comments/suggested changes so Chairman Bogardus called for a motion on the bylaws as presented.

Motion: (Elbert, second Fisher) to accept the bylaws as written with no changes passed 4-0.

b).Beekeeping Forum – Mrs. Elbert said she failed to give Chairman Bogardus the address to send the \$50 donation to Amy Antonucci for the beekeeping forum she presented at the library and then gave her Ms. Antonucci's address.

c). Timber Harvest Forum- Mrs. Elbert said the last time she met with Forester A.J. Dupere they did not have an opportunity to talk about timber harvesting forum but she planned to speak with him about within the next week.

d).Recycling- Mrs. Elbert said she received some information from a school in Barrington regarding their successful school recycling program. She said she has been "virtually introduced" to 2 people involved with the program but has not actually spoken with them yet. She said planned to meet with former Con Com member Dave Connolly the next day to see

how far they had gotten to with previous efforts to start a recycling program in the Farmington schools. She said she also touched base with School Board member Angie Cardinal who said she would try to bring it up again with the School Board and let them know the Con Com is still interested in partnering with them to start a recycling program and that she (Mrs. Elbert) would be the point of contact for the Con Com.

Mrs. Elbert said it was suggested to her that she publicize it on Face book but that she hadn't done that yet as she is somewhat social media adverse.

Mrs. Titus suggested it would be better to first complete the research and then follow protocol with the SAU and the School Board than to put it out on Face book. She said Mrs. Elbert should ask to be placed on the agenda for discussion a School Board meeting or to attend a meeting and ask to discuss it during the public comment portion of the meeting. Face book is a great tool to get information out there but we need to get the information through the protocol we need to go through first she said.

Mrs. Elbert said she was planning to go on Face book through the National Resources Stewards Program or through the UNH Cooperative Extension to find out if there are any other schools in the state that have such a program and copy that plan here. She said the Stewards have a Face book page and there may be a lot of people out there who have already done the work.

Mrs. Elbert added that she has heard that Barrington not only has a school recycling program but also has composting and may have a garden. She said they can't make the school system want this program and unless one of the members is willing to volunteer even more time they have to want to do it.

e). Elementary School Trail- Mr. Fisher asked if there was any update regarding the potential for a snow shoe trail connecting the elementary school to the trail behind the high school. Chairman Bogardus said she has not received an update on the project and that she planned to talk with Mr. Orvis (who is a surveyor) about the stone wall between the 2 schools. She said Mr. Connolly advised they should not attempt to dismantle any stone walls and that this is more of a spring time project so it is not a priority at this time.

Mr. Fisher said he thought that if a stone wall is not a boundary line and located on a landowner's property the landowner would have the authority to readjust it. He said the only rule he was aware of was that someone couldn't go out walking, come upon a stone wall, dismantle it and take the rocks. He said he would ask the Code Enforcement Officer and the Planning Dept. about the issue and report back to the commission.

f). Cameras- Mrs. Titus asked if the cameras for surveillance of the conservation properties had been purchased.

Chairman Bogardus said the new cameras have been purchased and that Mr. Sorensen has taken down all of the cameras and inspected their condition and operational status. He found that 2 of them are not working which were replaced with the new cameras. We may end up having buy more she said.

Mrs. Titus asked if the property owners would be interested in donating a camera.

Chairman Bogardus said the conservation properties are owned by the Town and NH Fish and Game and that they are not allowed to put cameras on private property. She said that a Fish and Game representative came to speak with Mr. Sorensen due to the deer carcass that was dumped on the property and during that discussion they talked about placement and disguising the cameras and said the dept. has a camera they may borrow if necessary. He was very adamant about not having the properties destroyed because they are Fish and Game properties as well she said.

Mrs. Titus asked if there are any grants or funding programs that could help with the purchase of additional cameras.

Ms. Bogardus said she did not know and that the cost of the new cameras was not that bad as it was \$376 for 2 cameras which includes the cable, the case and the camera. She said part of the problem with the old cameras is that they would be triggered and you wouldn't necessarily get a good picture and then it wouldn't take another one for 10 seconds so you would miss out on something. They are working on adjusting the cameras and it would be great if they are able to get more cameras in the future she said.

Chairman Bogardus then said she would look into the availability of grants for the cameras.

Mrs. Elbert asked if they would pay for someone to take a class on grant writing.

Mr. Fisher said the commission could agree to pay for a class is if it was training for the commission's benefit as the bylaws state they can expend funds for training.

Chairman Bogardus said it is a good idea and that she would look into it.

Mrs. Titus suggested talking to the Town Administrator about it and added if they had a person with that skill they could write their own grants and get some of the things they need more quickly.

7). New Business:

a). Con Com Photo – Chairman Bogardus asked if there was time to wait until more members were present to take the commission photo for the Annual Town Report.

Mrs. Titus said she messaged the Town Administrator who informed her there was still a few weeks before the photos must be submitted.

Mrs. Titus messaged the Town Administrator again to see if they could wait until their next meeting on Feb. 13.

Mr. Capello responded that they should not wait until their next meeting.

Consensus of the members present was to have Chairman Bogardus e-mail the members and try to reach an agreeable date/time to have the picture taken within the next 2 weeks.

b). Huppe Conservation Easement Amendment – Chairman Bogardus said that at the last meeting they discussed Southeast Land Trust's (SELT) request for the commission to vote on the amendment to the Huppe property easement. She said she included copies of the amendment in the members' packets and had hoped Mr. Orvis would be able to attend the

meeting as he is very familiar with the project.

She said that the amendment would add property to the Huppe easement coming from the Stuart easement. It's pretty plain and simple and we need to vote to support it and then it will be on the agenda for a Selectmen's meeting later this month for them to vote on it she said.

Mrs. Elbert asked if this would be moving property from one easement to another easement.

Chairman Bogardus said she did not know if the Stuart property was in an easement. She said that SELT Conservation Project Manager Jeremy Lougee said the amendment will add 2.79 acres to the existing conservation easement and nothing will change from the original deed except for the additional acreage and references to any manuals that have been updated. The wording would be that the Con Com approves the addition of the 2.79 acres to the conservation easement held by SELT and that the Con Com is requesting that the Board of Selectmen accept it as well.

Motion: (Elbert, second Fisher) to accept 2.79 additional acres to the Huppe conservation easement passed 4-0.

c). Church Anniversary- Mr. Fisher said the First Congregational Church has asked him to assist them in trying to inter-coordinate between various groups and the church to conduct their 200th anniversary. They want to put on family style celebration potentially to be held at Fernald Park that will be a daylong celebration of church and family. There will be various events with participation by various groups in towns with displays, skits, games and food. He suggested the Con Com may want to set up a display of farming equipment from the present to 200 years ago. He said it may be possible to contact antique stores/equipment owners to get some old shovels, rakes and antique tractors for the display to show how farming was done in the past and has changed over the last 200 years.

He said he has yet to present the idea to the church to see if they would be interested in it but he wanted to check with the Con Com first. He volunteered to head up the project if the members were interested in participating in the event. The tentative date is Saturday, Sept. 14 with the time to be determined he said.

Mr. Fisher said he is considering getting an old 2-man saw and asking someone to donate some logs to cut. He said there is time to think about it and wait until there are more members in attendance for further discussion.

Mrs. Elbert asked if Dottie Bean is still involved with the Farm Museum.

Mrs. Titus said she thought Mrs. Bean is still involved with the museum but on a more limited basis.

Mrs. Elbert said she did not know if the museum would loan anything out or would be willing to set up a display.

Mr. Fisher said he would check with the museum staff.

Mrs. Titus said she would speak with Mrs. Bean for more information.

Mr. Fisher suggested the Farmington Historical Society may also have some contacts.

Mrs. Elbert said the historical society should plan to participate in this event as well.

Mrs. Titus said the Farm Museum is only open on Saturdays at this time of year.

8). FYI:

Route 11 Resurfacing Project- Chairman Bogardus read a letter from the NH Dept. of Transportation informing the commission about an upcoming road resurfacing project in Alton, Wolfeboro, Farmington and Rochester. The project will include shim, inlay and overlay of the road, shoulder leveling, pavement markings, sidewalk tip-downs, guardrail replacement and minor drainage work. The letter asked the commission to inform the DOT of any environmental impact concerns with the project she said.

Intent to Cut Notice- Chairman Bogardus said 1 notice was received and is as follows:
Map R30, Lot 04, Ten Rod Road, 25 acres to be cut on a 50.8 acre lot and will be cut this winter by Dalton Mountain Forestry

9). Upcoming Dates:

February Con Com Meeting – Wed., Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.

Moose Talk – Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. (and Feb. 28 if needed) Location: TBD

10). Adjournment:

Motion: (Titus, second Elbert) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 6:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Laura Bogardus, Chairman