

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Commission Members Present:

Laura Bogardus, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Bill Fisher, Secretary
Tom Sorensen
Michelle Elbert
Ann Titus, Selectmen's Rep.

Commission Members Absent:

Richard Ballou

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:

January 9, 2019 – No errors or omissions

Motion: (Elbert, second Titus) to accept the minutes as written passed 4-0-2 (Orvis, Sorensen abstained).

5). Old Business:

Stone Walls – Mr. Fisher said he contacted the Code Enforcement Officer regarding the stone walls at the schools and was told that if the stone wall is on school property no action is necessary but if it is a boundary line the school district must obtain a letter of agreement to breach the wall to create a connecting trail from the elementary school to the high school trail. Mr. Orvis said the school district has to obtain permission anyway if they plan to run a trail through someone else's property.

Chairman Bogardus said she would pass the information onto Valley View Community School Phys. Ed. teacher Tammy Cook who brought the matter to them at a previous meeting.

Timber Harvest Talk – Mrs. Elbert said she spoke with Forester A. J. Dupere regarding available dates for the timbering forum and that he is available on May 4, June 1 or June 8.

Chairman Bogardus asked if the members preferred any of those dates.

Mr. Orvis said the session will include a site walk and reminded them that there may still be some issues with black flies in early May.

Consensus of the commission was to schedule the talk for June 1 from 9 a.m. to noon with a rain date of June 8.

Mrs. Elbert said the commission previously discussed holding the inside portion of event at the Public Safety Building and then carpooling to the site of a timber harvest and asked who was conducting the harvesting.

Chairman Bogardus said she will ask Barry Keith for the name of the harvesting contractor.

Mrs. Titus said that the high school graduation is scheduled for either June 8th or the 15th.

Mrs. Elbert then recalled she won't be available on June 8 as she will be out of state.

Chairman Bogardus suggested Mrs. Elbert ask Mr. Dupere to schedule the talk for June 1 and in the meantime she will find about the date for graduation before they schedule a rain date.

School Recycling Program – Mrs. Elbert said she contacted one of the teachers at the Barrington elementary school and learned that they have a recycling program, composting and a garden. She said she was invited to visit the school and view the programs but they will wait until it warms up outside. Their recycling program is pretty low-key with a teacher or custodian heading up the program she said.

Mrs. Elbert said she also has done some research on grant funds for recycling programs and Selectman Dave Connolly gave her the name of a Valley View teacher who was interested in the idea that she plans to contact and discuss if there is still interest in starting a program there.

Mrs. Titus suggested Mrs. Elbert look into seeing if the participants in the FAMEE after school program would be interested in taking on a recycling project as a program activity.

Chairman Bogardus said she thought that the Honor Society students are required to perform community service and may be interested in conducting a recycling program at the high school.

Mrs. Elbert said that she contacted School Board member Angie Cardinal and had a preliminary discussion with her on the topic but decided to wait until mid-March after Town elections and Town Meeting is over to push the idea to the School Board.

Moose Talk – Chairman Bogardus said the talk is scheduled for next week at the Public Safety Building and that she was not able to schedule a snow date for the event there. She said if it does snow next Wednesday the speaker said she was willing to reschedule the forum.

Mr. Fisher said he posted flyers for the talk at the Rochester Public Library, the Goodwin Library, the Rochester Market Baskets and that he planned to put up more posters the next day in the Route 11 area.

Mrs. Elbert said she would try to get the talk posted on the Nature Groupies Face book page.

Mrs. Titus said she posted 2 flyers at Valley View and in the school's newsletter.

Mr. Fisher said it is posted on the Town website and on the community calendar on Channel 26.

Mr. Sorensen said he posted it on community Face book pages of the 12 surrounding towns.

Chairman Bogardus said asked if anyone posted a flyer at the Rec. Dept.

Mr. Sorensen said he would put one up at the Rec. Center the next day.

Tri-City Trailblazers- Mr. Orvis said the club is in the process of putting together some ATV trails in Farmington and asked anyone interested in allowing their property to be included in the trail system to contact him by e-mail at randyo@gbhsurvey.com or by phone at 603-859-2367.

Chairman Bogardus added that Mr. Orvis' contact information is on the Town website in the list of Conservation Commission members.

6). New Business:

MMRG Annual Dinner Meeting – Chairman Bogardus said that Moose Mountain Regional Greenways will hold its Annual Dinner Meeting on Monday, March 18 at The Inn on Main in Wolfeboro at a cost of \$35 each to commission members. She said Dr. Jennifer Jacobson will speak on climate change and there will also be a silent auction during the event. Chairman Bogardus and Mr. Sorensen expressed interest in attending the meeting.

Motion: (Fisher, second Elbert) to spend \$70 to send 2 people to the MMRG Annual Meeting;

Discussion: Mr. Orvis said that Mr. Ballou has attended this meeting in past and offered the following amendment to the motion:

Amendment: to expend up to \$105 to send up to 3 people to MMRG Annual Meeting;

Mr. Fisher accepted the amendment. Mrs. Elbert seconded the amendment.

Chairman Bogardus said she will contact Mr. Ballou to see if he is available to attend the meeting before submitting the RSVP's.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Member Reappointments- Mr. Fisher said as a reminder that his and Mr. Orvis' terms are up this year and that they need to reapply with the Selectmen to remain as commission members. Mr. Orvis said he contacted **Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC)** for an application to represent Farmington on that commission and when he drops it off at the Municipal Office Building he will fill out an application for reappointment to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Fisher said he will also represent Farmington on the SRPC and has received his new member packet and has training scheduled for Feb. 20.

7).FYI:

Timber Sale Agreement: Chairman Bogardus said BH Keith informed her that the Selectmen signed off on the timber sale agreement for timber management activity at the Town Forest. The harvest area is located on the west side of the Cocheco River and an Intent to Cut has been filed with the Town and a Forestry Wetland Notification Form has been filed with NH Dept. of Environmental Services (NH DES). She said that because site conditions may vary based on weather conditions that Mr. Keith has extended the contract period to July 30, 2019 to allow for flexibility with the project schedule. Mr. Keith further wrote that if winter conditions prevail they intend to conduct the harvest this winter she said.

NHACC- Chairman Bogardus said that the NH Association of Conservation Commissions sent them an e-mail to express their thanks for the commission's continued support for their work. She read that last year the NHACC tracked bills in the state legislature to keep members informed about any changes that would affect Conservation Commissions or the state's natural resources, defended Current Use, lobbied the legislature to protect the Con Com's ability to

request extensions to the review of wetland permit applications, worked with NH DES on the draft for wetlands rules to ensure Con Com concerns were addressed and assisted Con Com's with funding for land management and natural resources planning.

MMRG Candy Sale- Mr. Fisher said MMRG is conducting a candy sale for Valentine's Day as a fundraiser to support their activities. He said more information can be found on the group's website.

8). Upcoming Dates:

March Meeting – March 20, 2019 –note meeting change due to Town Meeting on March 13

Moose Talk- February 20,2019

Adjournment:

Motion: (Orvis, second Sorensen) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 6:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

Laura Bogardus, Chairman