

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

Commission Members Present:

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

Commission Members Absent:

Michelle Elbert, excused
Richard Ballou

Others Present:

Kyle Pimental, Interim Planner
Nicole & Erik Minnis
John Robicheau

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:

Mrs. Titus asked about the **Southeast Land Trust (SELT)** signs posted on the Rochester owned reservoir land on Sheepboro Road in Farmington. She asked Chairman Bogardus if she had heard anything about this and if she knew why the signs are there.

Ms. Bogardus said she had not heard anything about this and that Selectman Dave Connolly had also mentioned it to her. She said the last she knew they had not gone any further with SELT on this property.

Mrs. Titus asked if SELT should have contacted the Town if they are going to do anything there. Chairman Bogardus said they would contact the Con Com if they are looking for a donation to help with their plans but she had not heard anything since their previous discussion this spring.

Mr. Orvis said Rochester may have put the property in conservation with SELT completely independently of the Town and it is their ability to do that if they are the property owners.

He said they usually come to the commission when they are looking for money for an appraisal or some other aspect of a conservation easement but otherwise they don't notify the Town.

Chairman Bogardus said they don't need to notify the commission or have them have anything to do with it if a private property owner wants to put their land into conservation.

Mr. Orvis agreed and said if the Con Com makes a donation they get a position in the easement to enforce issues such as an encroachment onto that property.

Ms. Bogardus said she knew this property has been a contentious issue between the two municipalities and at one point (SELT Conservation Project Manager) Jeremy Lougee had approached them about it and the Selectmen told him they weren't doing anything with the property at that time. She said she would ask Mr. Lougee for information about the project.

4). Kyle Pimental- SRPC:

Kyle Pimental came forward and introduced himself as the Principal Regional Planner for **Strafford Regional Planning Commission** and the Interim Town Planner for Farmington. He said if the commission has any difficulty getting in contact with Mr. Lougee he is a member of the SELT Land Stewardship Committee and he would help bridge the informational gap if needed. Mr. Pimental said he came to this meeting to talk about updating the 2015 conservation map. He said that about 4 years ago they went through a process with former Con Com Chairman Dave Connolly and a few other commission members where they looked at what NH GRANIT (**G**eographically **R**eferenced **A**nalysis and **I**nformation **T**ransfer) had in their system. He said the GRANIT System is the state's warehouse for all GIS (**G**eographic **I**nformation **S**ystem) information and they hold all of the conservation lands spatial information.

Mr. Pimental said they use the GRANIT system for the regional and community maps they create but they are not always accurate because they only update their system once or twice a year. There is a process to do that where a form has to be filled out and there are times when a community will look at what GRANIT has and what they know is true in their town and that they need to update this he said.

He said they identified 8 or 9 parcels that needed to be corrected or added to the state's system. We created a base map on paper and then put the conservation overlay on the clear Mylar which was placed over the map to allow people to flip back and forth between them and make it easier to read. All of the base information such as water bodies, roads and wetlands is on the map and the clear sheet is just the conservation information including the focus areas and the Town owned land he said.

Mr. Pimental said he reproduced the map that was done in 2015 on a paper map so they could see the 2018 information and explained that the green areas on the map is what GRANIT currently has and the red hashed lines designate the 5 properties that have been put into conservation but GRANIT still doesn't have them.

He said he would like the members to identify any new parcels that are in conservation and then they could talk about the next steps in getting the properties outlined in red into the state system.

Mr. Orvis identified 14 acres of the New Dam subdivision approved in 2002 that fronts on Bay Road across from the Town Forest as one conservation area to be added to the map.

Chairman Bogardus asked how Mr. Pimental would like to receive this information from the commission.

Mr. Pimental said the easiest way would be for them to draw the actual parcels on the clear Mylar and to provide him with any information that they have such as the primary owner's name, if it is an easement or fee owned lot, etc. We need to submit certain information or GRANIT won't accept it he said.

Chairman Bogardus asked for a timeframe for Mr. Pimental to receive this information.

Mr. Pimental said he would contact GRANIT the next day and find out when they are going to update their information. He said if they are going to update their information at the end of the year that would require a quicker response from the commission but if the update has been done for this year they could take their time with their response and that he would e-mail Ms. Bogardus with GRANIT's response.

Chairman Bogardus asked the members how they would like to proceed with getting this information and if they would like to address it during a meeting.

Mr. Orvis said if he comes up with anything he would stop by the Planning Office and give the information to Mr. Pimental.

Mr. Pimental said he was fine with receiving the information piece-meal and asked the members to also highlight any errors on the map so the boundaries could be adjusted. He noted that the Jones Brook easement looks like it goes over a subdivision and should be corrected.

Mr. Orvis said the easement was part of the subdivision and those lots would not be part of the easement as they are all built up.

Mr. Pimental said if the commission wished to have a workshop at their next meeting and mark up the map that would also work for him. He said he would send Chairman Bogardus the tract sheets which is the list of information criteria needed for each parcel to submit the information to GRANIT. A tract sheet will be needed for any new easements and for the parcels that are outlined in the hashed red lines. Three of them are extremely small and I will circle them on the map so that you don't miss them he said.

Mr. Fisher asked if the new agreement along the Cocheco River at the Transfer Station should be included. He said it is not really in conservation but there is an easement through there with a signed agreement not to "mess with it".

Mr. Pimental said the 250' portion of the property is an easement covenant and should be included on the map. He said the language that the Town Counsel put together says there is to be no disturbance there but it allows for public access to the property.

Mr. Fisher said public access had to be included because the easement goes across the entrance to the Transfer Station.

Mr. Pimental said the state nixed the canoe launch and part of the trail system that was located there to address NH Fish and Game's concerns about the turtle habitat in that area.

Mr. Orvis pointed out that the conservation area around Town well #6 is not on the map.

Mr. Pimental said that GRANIT does not have any information on well #6 or on land that is protected for the water supply and that it didn't come up during the 2015 update.

Mrs. Titus asked how often the maps should be updated.

Mr. Pimental said it depends on how much activity the town has had and that they come back to the communities for updates every 3-5 years. It doesn't usually make a whole lot of sense to do it yearly unless you have conserved 5-7 properties or a large property expected to have a lot

of use in one year he said.

Mr. Sorensen suggested that they hold a workshop meeting for a discussion on just this topic as it could take up the whole meeting.

Consensus of the members was to meet on Wednesday, October 23 at 6 p.m. in the second floor meeting room at the Municipal Office Building.

Mr. Pimental said he would send Chairman Bogardus a PDF copy of the map that she could forward to the members which would allow them to pull it up on their laptops and zoom in on any areas they wish to look at more closely. He said after that meeting he could meet with the commission again and they could walk him through the additions/corrections and then he will make the electronic edits and submit them to GRANIT.

Chairman Bogardus thanked Mr. Pimental for attending the meeting.

5). Review of Minutes:

September 11, 2019 – No errors or omissions

Motion: (Fisher, second Titus) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0-1 (Fitzgerald abstained).

6). Masson Conservation Easement (Tax Map R43, Lot 10):

Nicole and Erik Minnis came forward and introduced themselves as the owners of the 812 Meaderboro Road property.

Mr. Minnis said they submitted a bid on the property to the Town in May and the Town accepted their bid. He said that while they were working with Norway Plains they discovered a few concerns and some other items they would like addressed by the Con Com.

He said the conservation easement discusses that 3 acres will be allotted for the building of the property itself and it doesn't specify that it's required to be anywhere on the property. When the Conservation Restriction Assessment application (NH Dept. of Revenue Administration Form PA-60) was done by a previous owner the map drew it out as a dotted line that could be seen on the tax map sheet in the packet he gave the members. Based on speaking with Norway Plains and looking at the site location for drainage and the site work for viable land location we are looking to move it behind the Kelly's (abutters) a little further up on the lot he said.

He said that they also need to clarify the language because a new PA-60 was completed which has a new map that shows their desired location. One of the things about the original PA-60 which shows the tax map and is highlighted is that it was never actually approved or denied. It went to the Registry of Deeds and that he did not know about the legality of the document because it was not approved or denied. Either we need to supersede this document or nullify it and replace it with our proposal once we have the deed signed over in our name. We are looking for your approval to move the location he said.

Chairman Bogardus said it sounds as if the location of easement is not set in stone so they are not necessarily moving it.

Mr. Sorensen suggested that it was more like they were redefining the location.

Mr. Minnis introduced his father-in-law, John Robicheau and said that they have plenty of acreage back there and that he, his wife and their kids just love the outdoors.

He said they take the conservation aspect of the easement very seriously but unfortunately the previous owner did not and there is significant dumping on the lot including a bulldozer and other heavy equipment which they have to get down to the roadside to have it removed. We are not requesting the Town's help to remove them and we are going to take care of it he said.

Mr. Orvis said they should be able to get some money for scrap metal from the dozers.

Mr. Minnis said it is going to take time to remove all of the stuff left on the property and they need to have an access road to get the stuff down to the removal location.

Mr. Sorensen asked if most of the stuff was in the opening highlighted in one of the photos provided in the packet.

Mr. Minnis said he wished he could say yes but unfortunately it is not so. He went to the next page in the packet and showed Mr. Sorensen the other areas where dumping also took place.

He pointed out the trailers, boats, vehicles, tires and other trash left there by the previous owner and then asked the commission to allow them to have 12 months to clean out the lot.

He said they did not know how much time it will actually take to complete the clean up and that they plan to get started once the deed to the property is signed over to them.

Chairman Bogardus said she thought 12 months is a short period of time to finish the cleanup.

Mr. Orvis suggested they be allowed 12 months with extensions if needed so long as significant progress is being made with the removal of the items.

Mr. Minnis suggested they be given 12 months to clean up the property with a one-time extension of 6 months.

Mr. Robicheau said there are 5 or 6 fiberglass boats that can be cut up and put in dumpsters and he thought that they would be able to get someone to come and take most of the stuff.

Mr. Fisher said from what he has seen at the Metal Farm the Minnis' should be able to sell most of the stuff there to them.

Mr. Minnis said they are going to clean up the property as best as possible but he could not guarantee that the debris has not gone further down. He said they planned to do a surface clean to get rid of all of the visual matter and he hoped to get it all done within the 12 month timeframe especially because his wife is "super excited" to start building their new home.

Mr. Fisher asked if the yellow section shown on the map is the new house site.

Mrs. Minnis said that is the proposed location of the 3 acres where they would want to build.

Mr. Minis said they know that because of the distance to the house the electric co-op will require the installation of a high power line up to the house with a 15' easement on either side of the pole. They may be able to negotiate with the utility to put part of their 15' easement within the access road and they would "tap off" of the access road for their driveway he said. He said the ideal location for the driveway is not there but they are already cutting an access

road and he did not want to have a lot of penetrations through the conservation area.

Mr. Sorensen asked what the plan was for the access road after all the objects were removed.

Mr. Minnis said it would be part of the driveway and part of it is for the power line.

Mr. Orvis suggested they may want to install the power lines underground.

Mr. Robicheau said it depends on the situation and that when his brother tried to have the electric company install the lines underground on his property they refused to do so.

Mrs. Titus asked if they had checked with the Zoning Board about frontage, setbacks, etc.

Mr. Fisher said they are basically in the middle of the property and well within the setbacks and won't need to go before the Zoning Board for this plan.

Mr. Sorensen said they would need to speak with the Planning Dept. Office when it comes time to build the home to get their building permit, etc. after they get through this part of their plan.

Mr. Orvis said they are looking to move the area that is not restricted or to define it better to where they want to put it.

Mr. Minnis said that is correct.

Mr. Orvis said he had never seen the PA-60 form before despite having worked with other conservation properties. He gave an example of a lot in Deerfield where the 35 year old easement gave the owner the right to subdivide off one more 3 acre piece from the conservation parcel and the owner only had to go to the Planning Board for approval.

Mr. Minnis said that the conservation easement to his property allows him to do the same.

Mr. Robicheau said the easement would lead you to believe that the house could go anywhere on the property.

After reviewing the original PA-60 form, Mr. Orvis said it is an application to put the whole property into conservation and the sketch shows the intended location of the buildable area is in the corner of the lot so he did not think they could just redefine it into the middle of the lot.

Chairman Bogardus said she was not sure about that as the Town Attorney and the Assessing Clerk have both reviewed the deed.

Mr. Orvis said the sketch was recorded as part of the PA-60 form.

Mr. Fisher said that Paragraph 8, Use Limitations states that they would be allowed to take out a 3 acre section of the property.

Chairman Bogardus said the Town Attorney advised they can vote on where to locate the 3 acres unless it is a clear zoning violation.

Mr. Orvis said it is an area within a lot so it is not going to be a zoning violation because the 40 acre lot is an existing lot of record. They are not going to be subdividing this piece out but are defining it and with most new easements, there is a part of the survey generally defining these things real well. I'm not opposed to moving it he said.

Chairman Bogardus asked if the commission was comfortable with putting it in the proposed area.

Mrs. Titus said she agreed with the proposal as long as it was not a zoning violation.

Mr. Fisher said he did not see any zoning issues with the proposal.

Mrs. Minnis asked about the procedure for getting a septic design for property.

Mr. Fisher advised them to contact the Code Enforcement Officer when it is time start planning the septic design.

Mr. Sorensen noted that if there are any wetlands on the property that the septic system must be so many feet away from them which may redefine the buildable area.

Chairman Bogardus said that Norway Plains has a lot of knowledge about these issues.

She read that the Town Attorney stated that the 3 acres designation is purely for conservation easement purposes and the Minnis are required to comply with all of the requirements of state law and the Farmington regulations including the Farmington Zoning Ordinance and that they should be made aware of that.

Mr. Orvis asked if their house site is going to be located generally in the area that they are cleaning up.

Mrs. Minnis said the house would be right in the middle of the yellow block shown on the map.

Mr. Orvis said he meant that they were not going to be building and disturbing an undisturbed site. It's probably less disturbed than where this other sketch shows the 3 acres he said.

Chairman Bogardus said the proposed location is where all the junk is so they will have to disturb it anyway to clean it up.

Mr. Robicheau said that at some point the 3 acres will have to be surveyed and be defined within the conservation land. He said he did not know what step of the process that is.

Mrs. Minnis said that Norway Plains said they would not be comfortable moving forward until they have talked to the Con Com.

Chairman Bogardus said all the commission needs to do is to look at their rough sketch of the proposal and vote on whether to accept where it is located.

Mr. Orvis asked who holds the conservation easement to the property.

Mr. Minnis said the Con Com holds the easement to the property.

Mr. Orvis asked if it is held by the Con Com alone or if another group like SELT is involved.

Chairman Bogardus said she believed that the Con Com is sole holder of the easement.

Mr. Minnis said the Tax Collector's deed shown on the second to last page of the packet is when the Town took the property from the Masson's in Dec. 2018.

Mr. Orvis noted there is a conservation easement deed included and the easement has existed since 2006.

Mr. Robicheau said they would like to keep the property as natural as possible. He said the previous owner had used the bulldozer to make troughs in the land looking for gravel and at some point they would be asking for permission to push those dirt hills back into the holes.

Chairman Bogardus said she was fine with the Minnis' proposed 3 acre location.

Mr. Orvis said he wanted to note that on Page 3 of the deed it states "Except for those of record, no rights-of way, easements of ingress or egress, driveways, roads or utilities shall be

constructed or developed into, on or over without prior written approval of the grantor” and that the Con Com is the grantor and that is the reason they are before the commission. Mr. Robicheau added that it also says these things can only be done for the purpose of constructing a single family home.

Motion: (Fisher, second Titus) to grant permission to move the three acre parcel to the new location as shown on Form PA-60, Section 4, subsection 1, draft sketch for 812 Meaderboro Road, Map R43, Lot 10 and to allow the construction of an access road for the purposes of restoring the land and the building of a homestead and utilities and to allow this to be done within the timeframe of 12 to 18 months with possible extensions if needed and approved by the grantor passed 6-0.

Mrs. Minnis asked if the next step was to go before the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Orvis said that was correct because the Selectmen and the Con Com are both the grantor of the easement.

Mrs. Titus advised Mrs. Minnis to contact the Assessing Clerk for the next steps in the process.

Motion: (Titus, second Sorensen) to take a 5 minute recess passed 6-0 at 7 p.m.

Chairman Bogardus reconvened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

7). Old Business:

a). Fall Clean-up – Mr. Fisher brought in a sample of the 30 gloves he purchased to be used by the volunteers at the Sunday, Oct. 20 Fall Clean-up Day. He said the gloves cost \$10 for a 10-pack, are washable, reusable and should fit almost everyone as they are a size large and then asked if the members would like him to purchase additional gloves.

Chairman Bogardus suggested they start with the 30 gloves and see how they hold up during use and after washing.

Mrs. Titus asked if the packaging said the gloves are washable.

Mr. Fisher said it did not say they were washable but that he thought they would be fine with a cold water wash and air dry.

Chairman Bogardus said the clean-up would run from noon to 4 p.m. and the rain date is Sunday, Oct. 27.

Mr. Fisher said he would pick up the other items needed (bags, vests and beverages) a few days before the event and bring them to the Public Safety Building that day.

Chairman Bogardus said Mrs. Elbert is bringing a jug of drinking water as well. She then asked the members if they wanted to purchase pizzas for the volunteers for after the cleanup is done.

Motion: (Fisher, second Orvis) to spend up to \$100 to order pizzas for the Fall Clean-up passed 6-0.

Chairman Bogardus said they have secured one of the DPW trucks for the trash pickup and it will be left behind the building to transport the trash to the Transfer Station. The Police Chief said he will provide a detail for the event she said.

Discussion then included locations to post flyers to advertise and recruit volunteers for the

cleanup and recruiting student members of the Con Com.

b). Any Other Old Business – Mr. Fisher asked if they have heard anything from Home Depot on finishing the cutouts for the McCarthy Trail (located behind the Public Safety Building).

Chairman Bogardus said she has been unable to get any response from them and the DPW Assistant had the concrete and materials to be used to install the cutouts put away.

Mr. Sorensen said they walked the trail the other day and put stakes in all of the holes and caution tape on the stakes to keep people from falling in the holes.

Chairman Bogardus said she would try again to get an answer from the store rep.

Mrs. Titus asked if there was anyone in town who could take over the project.

Chairman Bogardus said they may have to start looking for someone. It's going to be a process as they will first have to remove the water in the holes to put the concrete in she said.

Mr. Fisher and Mr. Sorensen explained they will have to put 4 x 4 posts in the ground for each character, add the concrete, assemble the supports for the cutouts and then install them. He said he is taking the Natural Resources Stewards class through UNH and is considering asking the instructors if this project could be something that could be taken up by the students to meet their community service requirements for next year.

Mrs. Titus said she may have a contact at the store that may be able to nudge them into action.

8). New Business:

a). By-Laws – Chairman Bogardus said they need to vote on the by-laws and asked the members to review them in preparation to discuss any possible changes needed at their November meeting. She said the commission would vote on the by-laws at the December meeting and then she will submit them to the Selectmen for their review in January. She said she would prefer not to print out copies for everyone and that she would e-mail them to the members after this meeting.

b). Town Report – Chairman Bogardus said she will be writing the yearly commission report for inclusion in the Annual Town Report and if anyone had any suggestions for what they would like added to it to let her know.

Mrs. Titus reminded them they will also need to have a picture taken again for the report.

c). Any Other New Business – Snow Mobile Access -Chairman Bogardus said the Powder Mill Snowmobile Club maintains the trails and has access to them through the gate at the Dubois property and has requested that their permission to access through the gate be renewed.

Mr. Orvis asked if they wanted to renew their access for 1 year or 5 years.

Chairman Bogardus said they renewed their access for 5 years last time.

Mr. Orvis said they have not had any issues with them and there were no negative comments in the property monitoring reports. He recommended the permission be granted for 5 years.

Motion: (Orvis, second Titus) to authorize the Chairman to sign the snowmobile permission slip for 5 years passed 6-0.

Easement Monitoring – Chairman Bogardus said they received a bill for \$390 (\$360 for the

monitoring & report preparation and \$30 for mileage) from BH Keith for the summer report for the easement monitoring.

Motion: (Fisher, second Fitzgerald) to pay the bill for \$390 to BH Keith for the monitoring of our conservation lands passed 6-0.

NHACC Dues – Chairman Bogardus said they also received their membership dues request from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for \$350. She asked the members if they wished to continue their membership with the NHACC.

Motion: (Fisher, second Titus) to pay the membership dues to the NHACC in the amount of \$350;

Discussion: Mrs. Titus asked for an explanation of the benefits of membership in the group. Mr. Orvis said they get discount rates on their seminars and a newsletter from the organization. He said only thing he is hesitant about is that they lobby for issues that the commissions may support that he does not personally support. I'm fine with the membership he said. Chairman Bogardus said they do a lot of legal work on behalf of the commissions and are available for consultation.

Mr. Fisher said the NHACC also provided a guest speaker at one of their meetings.

Mr. Orvis said the NHACC wanted the Farmington Con Com to put on a presentation for other commissions as one of the few commissions in the state not hated by everybody else in town. We get better support from the local townspeople than most Con Com's do and the reason is because we are not adversarial. We manage our conservation lands and we help the residents by doing stuff like building trails and we don't (continuously) oppose development he said.

Vote: The motion passed 6-0.

Ronci Property – Mr. Orvis said he planned to obtain copies of all the work that Norway Plains did on the property for discussion at a future meeting. He said they said it wasn't feasible to install a handicapped access fishing spot there but he would like them to consider having a fishing access and maybe a picnic table there that doesn't necessarily have to be handicapped accessible as a project for next year. He said he knew they would have to monitor the area for trash but they seem to be doing pretty good with the other spots.

He then reported seeing the same vehicle several times at the Dubois property and that he wondered if there was a squatter on the property or if the car belonged to a hunter.

Mr. Sorensen said there was a squatter living back there and there is a tremendous amount of trash back there but the squatter has moved on.

Mr. Fisher suggested contacting the Police to check it out and if it is a squatter to have them removed.

Mr. Sorensen said there is a camera on the property and from Mr. Orvis' description of the vehicle he speculated that it may belong to someone who goes there regularly to walk a dog.

9). FYI:

Intent to Cut Notices –

Location: Map R34, Lot 20-2, Route 75; **Lot/Cut Size:** 5 acre lot (4 acres to be cut); **Land Owner:** Kayla Mucher

Location: Map R24, Lot 03, Meaderboro Road; **Land Owner:** Shaheen Enterprises

Location: Map R61, Lots 33, 33-1, 33-2, Silver Street and Fox Trot Drive; **Land Owner:** Linda Currier; **Lot/Cut Size:** 50 acres to be cut

Location: Map R02, Lot 55, Chestnut Hill Road, **Lot/Cut Size:** 44 acre lot; **Land Owner:** Bill Yates
Mr. Fitzgerald asked if it was really necessary for them to destroy the habitat of the wildlife out there.

Mr. Orvis said he didn't believe they were destroying the habitat. He said they are doing selective cuts and if you don't cut it the wood will rot. Wildlife likes edge habitats so they like logging jobs and the deer like to browse the small buds as they can't reach the buds on a tree 4 ft. around he said.

Mr. Fisher said it opens up the area so the under growth can start growing again. He said the old canopy grow gets taken out so it is more beneficial to do selective cutting.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked if they really do selective cutting. He said he knew of places that the loggers have destroyed.

Chairman Bogardus said it depends on the logger and the Con Com doesn't have much control over who the landowner uses to log their property.

Mr. Orvis said he knew of places that were logged and at first they looked destroyed and the next year and the year after you would not be able to tell that they had been there. The sun comes in and everything just explodes he said.

Mr. Fitzgerald said he was new to all this and that he didn't see how the habitats weren't destroyed and that the animals were driven out when the logging trucks were driven in.

Chairman Bogardus said a lot of people think that way and they are planning on having another forum on community foresting so people can understand the benefits of good logging practices along with the detriments of forestry.

Mr. Fitzgerald said he was trusting that the members know these people and that they are good people.

Mr. Orvis said there are sometimes reasons to do clear cuts. He said some species such as white pine need bright sun to grow and they don't reproduce unless you clear cut the hardwood and leave 1 or 2 pine trees which will then seed in. He gave the example of the property behind Hagen's Motor Pool on Route 11 in Rochester where 10-20 acres were stripped bare in the 1980's and 5 years later it was all pine trees 25 feet tall.

Chairman Bogardus said they are trying to re-establish their forums and that this is a good question. We'll try to get a good forester in here to talk about it she said.

New Member – Chairman Bogardus then apologized for not introducing Larry Fitzgerald as a

new member of the commission at the start of the meeting.

Mr. Orvis asked where Mr. Fitzgerald lives.

Mr. Fitzgerald said he lives off of Spring Street and has a lot of wildlife around him and he just loves it-except for the hawk that did battle with and injured his cat.

Mr. Fisher asked Chairman Bogardus to tell the Selectmen's Secretary that Mr. Fitzgerald needs a name placard.

Mrs. Titus asked if the Intent to Cut Notices could be posted on Face book or the Town website. Chairman Bogardus said she didn't know if there is a digital list of the notices to cut available.

Mr. Orvis said they do more in Farmington about making these public by reading them off at their meetings than any other town does. They stay in whatever slot the Town Clerk puts them in he said.

Mrs. Titus said it was important for them to read them aloud at the meetings to give people an idea of what is being cut and what they are doing in those areas. She said she thought maybe they could do a little more (to inform the public).

Mr. Orvis said the numbers he reads aloud sound like big numbers but this one is 50 acres and he has a half million board feet on his 2 acres if he cut every tree. They sound like a lot but it's not really he said.

Chairman Bogardus said if Mrs. Titus thought it should be done it could be but that the list is not readily available digitally. She said people can contact the commission if they have any questions.

Mr. Orvis said a lot of people also don't realize that the Intent to Cut form is a tax form used to estimate the amount of taxes to be paid on the wood cut from their property.

Ms. Bogardus said she never has received a phone call or an e-mail as a result of Mr. Orvis reading the notices at the meetings. She said she has gotten more questions when people see the actual logging taking place.

Mr. Sorensen said there is more interest in logging taking place on Town property than on private property.

Mrs. Titus said there was discussion on Face book when the Town Forest was being managed. Chairman Bogardus said that was because it was a visual thing as people drove by and saw the logging work taking place.

Mr. Orvis said he was more concerned about making sure that loggers use proper anti-erosion practices and that they should use 30 to 50 feet of tracking pads so that they don't track mud half a mile down the road because the mud gets into the ditches and silts up the rivers. When you see a logging truck tracking mud out into the road that's when to call Dennis (CEO/Bld. Insp. Dennis Roseberry) and report it. This goes not only for loggers but for construction sites in general he said.

10). Upcoming Dates:

October 20 – Fall Cleanup from noon to 4 p.m. Meeting at the Public Safety Building. Rain date

is October 27.

October 23 – Workshop meeting on updating the conservation map at 6 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Office Building.

November 13 – November Con Com monthly meeting at 6 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers.

11). Adjournment:

Motion: (Titus, second Sorensen) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:53 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

Laura Bogardus, Chairman