

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Laura Bogardus, Chairman
Bill Fisher, Secretary
Tom Sorensen
Michelle Elbert
Dave Connolly, Selectmen's Rep.
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Richard Ballou (arrived 6:25 p.m.)

Commission Members Absent:

Larry Fitzgerald

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 9, 2020 – Public Meeting Minutes – Page 1, change "Sorenson" to "Sorensen" (Members Present & item #4); Page 5, 7th line, change "NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions" to "Newmarket Conservation Commission"

Motion: (Fisher, second Elbert) to accept the minutes as amended passed 5-0-1 (Orvis abstained).

5). New Business:

a). Dept. of Environmental Services – Chairman Bogardus said she received notice that DES had received an application for an after the fact request for disturbance of 11,450 SF of protected shore land for construction of a barn, driveway, patio, walkways and landscaping in Lancelot Shores.

Mr. Orvis said the landowner got a permit but then did something different than on the permit. He said he did the original permitting when he was going to build the barn but he built it in a different spot and he had someone else do the after the fact plan. He said the owner moved some stuff around and it's been there for 4-5 years and this came about when a neighbor complained and then he had to apply for a new permit.

Ms. Bogardus said it is approved now and is good to go.

b). Monitoring Reports- Ms. Bogardus said she just received the SELT 2020 monitoring reports on the Hills, Huppe, Maynard and Smith properties and she has not had a chance to review

them. She said she would review them and discuss their findings at next month's meeting.

c). Conservation Easement- Mr. Fisher said in 2003 the 500 Club planned to build a new ball field on Paulson Road on the 2 lots given or sold to them by Pike Industries. He said the lot they planned to put the ball field on has too much ledge and they needed to move the ball field over so they merged the 2 lots into one lot and moved the ball field over to the center of the lot. He said they believe that's the same time when the Con Com got the 6.5 acres for the conservation easement that runs along the property but the drawings were never changed to identify the easement.

Mr. Connolly said back when he was Chairman of the Commission he was in contact with the 500 Club and they couldn't show him where it was located.

Mr. Fisher said the easement location is written in the deed by latitude and longitude so commission is covered for the ownership of the easement but the site plan was never signed. They asked the current Planning Board Chair to sign them and consensus of the board was for him not to sign it until it is verified that the plan is a true copy of what was approved by the board at that time. He said he advised that they shouldn't approve signing the plan until the easement is shown on the plan.

Mr. Connolly said the easement is good forever and that at one time he discussed an idea for a walking trail for the parents waiting for their kids participating in the club activities with a club member but no one could show him the exact location of the easement.

Mr. Fisher said there also was some discussion about possibly connecting the easement to the McCarthy Trail.

Mr. Connolly said that was many years later and they would have to go through a lot of wetland areas to do that and it would cut a corner off of a private property.

Mr. Fisher said the Chair did not sign the plan and they are checking into the legality of him signing it or if the 500 Club has to provide a new set of drawings.

d). Recycling - Mr. Fisher said recycling at the Transfer Station will be discontinued on Jan. 17 except for corrugated cardboard and scrap metal. He said he recently heard that if you wash out your tin cans you can put them in the metal dumpster.

Mr. Connolly said he has not been informed of that. He said he thought it best for people to talk to Transfer Station Facility Manager Pete Spencer about that.

Mr. Fisher said he would try to find out and hoped to have an answer at their next meeting.

Mr. Orvis said that some things you wash out of cans are not good for septic systems with many of them containing a lot of grease and you should check your tank and get it pumped more often because that could cause a thicker scum layer in the tank.

6). Old Business:

a). Library Storyboards - Mrs. Elbert said she talked to Goodwin Library Children's Services Library Aid Pam Groat about the story boards and she said she is waiting to be put on the Selectmen's meeting agenda because she only had permission to use the space (McCarthy Trail)

through the fall. She said Ms. Groat is waiting to see if the board will give them permission to install something more permanent before she comes to the Con Com to present her ideas. Mr. Connolly said the board addressed this a few months and he would have to look back at the meeting minutes to see the results of that discussion.

b). Composting- Mrs. Elbert said she spoke to Rick Malasky Director of the Newmarket Public Works Dept. who said they use a company called Mr. Fox that provides bins for people to put their stuff in and then Mr. Fox picks them up. She said the Town of Newmarket spends \$10,000 a year on this and about 40 residents participate. He said it is absolutely not worth the money but their Selectmen believe they're doing something good so they continue to approve that money she said.

Mrs. Elbert said she would like to know why the composting they tried to do at the Farmington Transfer Station failed but hasn't had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Spencer about it.

Ms. Bogardus said that \$10,000 is a lot of money for 40 participants and it seems it would be better to do it on site at the Transfer Station.

Mrs. Elbert said that Mr. Malasky said when you do that the state gets involved and there are some legal issues there. She said in Vermont they are demanding state wide that people are not allowed to dump food waste and must compost it but she didn't know if they have composting at all of their landfill facilities.

Mr. Orvis said they haven't had landfills in Vermont for about 50 years and he didn't know if they offer any kind of community composting sites.

c). Pending Easement – Mr. Connolly asked if there is any update on the pending easement on Meetinghouse Hill Road.

Ms. Bogardus said there was a holdup with one of the organizations but it is in the works and is still pending.

d). Southeast Land Trust – Mrs. Elbert asked if they knew when SELT sends out requests for donations. She said that it was about a year ago when they sent letters to residents asking for donations for the conservation of the Scruton Dairy property.

Ms. Bogardus said she was surprised they haven't done so already for the pending easement.

Mr. Connolly said he didn't recall seeing a lot of donation requests from SELT.

e). Ronci Property- Mr. Orvis said he hasn't forgotten about this project and that he planned to get a copy of the sketch done by Norway Plains and to start sketching some ideas that they could do for a picnic area on the property. He said he went online and looked at some of the grants given out and saw that they gave \$150,000 to put in a 40 ft. dock in some lake in NY and they could do something more unique for the same money.

He said they would have to build substantial structure that would have to be drilled into ledge or concrete because of the ice damage in the spring time and they wouldn't want to do something that would get washed away.

Mr. Sorensen said he saw some pictures of cable bridges that go over some rivers that get some

“humongous” ice dams and asked if we could do something like that here instead of a pier. Mr. Orvis said the idea is to give somebody handicapped or in a wheelchair the ability to get out there and fish not just the general public. He said the ice damage here is substantial and it comes to our side of the river so it would have to be something more substantial. I’m surprised more trees don’t get leveled he said.

He said the property has a sharp corner in it and has a pool about 5 or 6 feet deep and a good run of water coming out of it and is the kind of place you’d look for to catch a trout on a fly.

Mr. Connolly suggested that he look in the Ronci folder in the Con Com files for the feasibility report for more information.

Mr. Orvis said he would ask Norway Plains to e-mail him a copy of their sketch so he could print copies as needed.

7). FYI:

Mr. Orvis read the Notice of Intent to Cut that was submitted in November 2020 for Tax Map R67, Lot 2 on Meaderboro Road, 70 acres to be cut and the land is owned by the Salvetti Trust. Mr. Connolly said the property is near old Range Road and abuts the New Durham town line.

8). Upcoming Dates:

Next Con Com Meeting – February 10, 2021 at 6 p.m.

9). Adjournment:

Motion: (Fisher, second Sorensen) to adjourn the meeting passed 7-0 at 6:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Laura Bogardus, Chairman