

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Laura Bogardus, Chairman
Bill Fisher, Secretary
Tom Sorensen
Michelle Elbert

Commission Members Absent:

Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Dave Connolly, Selectmen's Rep. excused
Larry Fitzgerald, excused
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 13, 2021 – Public Meeting Minutes – No errors or omissions

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

5). New Business:

a). Goodwin Library Story Trail – Mr. Fisher reported that Children's Services Director Kayla Morin-Riordan went before the Selectmen seeking permission to continue operating the story trail at the McCarthy Trail and the Selectmen approved her request. He said the Selectmen advised her to contact the Cons Com to help her figure out what needs to be done and how to get the materials (for permanent story boards) and that the commission may be able to help with the cost of the project.

Chairman Bogardus said Mr. Sorensen planned to discuss the plan with Mrs. Morin-Riordan and may be able to help them find a less expensive way to complete the project.

Mr. Sorensen said some of the Con Com's posts may be usable for the library project and getting them installed as part of this project could be beneficial to both groups.

Chairman Bogardus said she would contact Mrs. Morin-Riordan to ask her to attend the March Con Com meeting to discuss the next steps.

b). DNCR Conference- Chairman Bogardus said she and Mr. Connolly have a conference call scheduled for Friday with the NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources about maintenance of the hiking trails on Blue Job Mountain. She said the dept. is organizing a trail maintenance group and is reaching out to the Con Com to help find volunteers for the group.

She asked if any of the members have visited the trails since they got the new signage.

Mrs. Elbert said she was there in late spring/early summer and the signs were in place.

c). Planning Board Meeting – Chairman Bogardus said the Planning Board is meeting on Tuesday, February 16 for a hearing and possible vote on minor lot line adjustment between Tax Map R31, Lots 29 and 34 (63 Meetinghouse Hill Rd., Pound Rd. and Davidson Drive) which abuts the conservation land on Pound Rd. (Tax Map R36, Lot 5) to correct an existing encroachment. Mrs. Elbert said she thought the conservation land went all the way to Pound Road but noticed that a new house is going in back there with a long driveway coming in off Meetinghouse Hill Road and asked how that would work.

Mr. Fisher said an applicant came before the Planning Board about a year ago with a plan to put a house on a little chunk of land right in the middle and the conservation property goes around it and a small portion of conservation land goes out to Pound Road.

d). Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership – Chairman Bogardus said the commission received a packet from PREP containing their annual report.

Mr. Fisher said the Cocheco River dumps into the Piscataqua River and we are part of that watershed and the local advisory committee and they may have received the information as the Con Com within that area.

6). Old Business:

a). MMRG Receipt – Ms. Bogardus said she received a receipt from the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways for the \$5,000 they donated to the Leary Field and Forest conservation easement project on Hornetown Road.

b). Composting Update – Mrs. Elbert said she read an article that stated that Dover is paying \$69.07 a month to host a 64 gallon tote that is picked up once a month which provides residents with a no cost composting option. She said that is so far removed from the \$10,000 that Newmarket is paying that it seems that something is remiss there. She said she has tried to contact them and has not yet received a response.

She speculated that the small container may be a testing phase to see how well it is received and how many people are going to use it. She said she planned to look into it further and if that is the price there is no reason for Farmington not to do this.

Ms. Bogardus said she liked that they take everything including meat and bones which would be difficult for us to do on our own at the Transfer Station.

Mrs. Elbert said she also received some general composting information that she would like to disseminate to the public but was unsure of how to do that.

Chairman Bogardus said she could post the information on their Facebook page and possibly on the Farmington Community Forum Facebook page.

Mrs. Elbert said she would send the information to Ms. Bogardus and suggested they do the same with the information on pollinators.

Election of Officers – Chairman Bogardus said the agenda for the next meeting will include the election of officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) and asked if there are other members who

may be interested in being Chairman. She said if they wish her to continue as the Chair she will be looking to form subcommittees to assist with the planning and execution of their activities.

7). FYI:

Intent to Cut – Tax Map R29, Lot 12-6, Ten Rod Road, 11.5 acres in size, 4 acres to be cut, start date Jan. 21, 2021.

8). Upcoming Dates:

March Con Com Meeting – March 17, 2021 at 6 p.m. due Town Meeting on March 10.

9). Adjournment:

Motion: (Sorensen, second Elbert) to adjourn the meeting passed 4-0 at 6:26 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Laura Bogardus, Chairman