

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021

Commission Members Present: Chairman Bill Fisher, Secretary Laura Bogardus, Selectmen's Rep. Doug Staples, Richard Ballou, Larry Fitzgerald

Commission Members Absent: Vice Chairman Randy Orvis

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment:

Mr. Fisher noted there were no members of the public present and if anyone wished to come to the meeting he would keep the public comment section open throughout the meeting.

4). Review of Minutes:

August 11, 2021 – No errors or omissions

Motion: (Staples, second Fitzgerald) to accept the minutes as written passed 4-0-1 (Bogardus abstained).

5). Old Business:

Con Com By-Laws – Mr. Fisher said he changed the by-laws as agreed to at the previous meeting to bring them in line with the state RSA's regarding the Con Com where it talks about the number of members. He said the RSA's say they can have 4 to 7 members and that way a quorum could be had with 3 members present. He then told the viewers if anyone is interested there is an open seat on the commission and they could use some help.

He said the other changes were to reflect that the Board of Selectmen can appoint 4-7 members and that a member of the Board of Selectmen is a member of the commission as well as three alternates.

Mr. Fisher said that especially during the summer months there are sometimes not enough members here to hold a meeting. He said everyone accepted the changes and voted on them previously but he didn't have the revised version printed out for the members to sign and asked them to do so now. He noted that Mr. Staples was not included as a signatory because the Selectmen would conduct their own review and vote on accepting the bylaws. The rest of the members present then signed the bylaws.

Mr. Fisher said he would submit the bylaws to the Town Administrator.

6). New Business:

Blue Job State Forest Habitat Improvement – Mr. Fisher said he received a letter from the NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands notifying them that improvements are being made to 21 acres of the Blue Job State Forest with a map of the work area on the reverse side. He said they are going to clean up the habitat areas and a controlled burn is scheduled for next year and this will be an on-going project for the next 2-3 years.

Letter of Compliance on Tax Map R-12, Lot 5 – Mr. Fisher said the second letter is for David and Trudy Aboud, Camelot Shores Drive who were given permission by the state to make improvements and work on the land at Tax Map R-12, Lot 5. It says all of their paperwork is in accordance with the requirements he said.

Haunted Trail – Mr. Fisher said he received an e-mail from Children's Services Supervisor Kayla Morin-Riordan saying the Goodwin Library is thinking of having a Haunted Trail for Halloween at the McCarthy Trail. He said they are looking for volunteers to participate in handing out candy along the trail and to provide some scary fun for the kids and asked if anyone from the Con Com would be interested in doing this at the trick or treat event which is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 29 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

He said he did not know how much of the trail they planned to use and it may just be the first part of the road where it is easier for little ones to travel. He said he planned to participate and bring some candy if he is able. The library is trying to do so much with the town he said.

He said the library also just replenished the story boards on the trail and advised it would be a good place to take little ones for a walk and read a story.

Sign Unveiling/Guided Walks – Mr. Fisher said he received an e-mail from **Moose Mountains Regional Greenways** announcing that on Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Casey Road Conservation Land Trailhead (off Governor's Road in Milton) with refreshments and guided hikes to celebrate the new conservation land trailhead. They ask that you make reservations if you plan to attend he said.

Ms. Bogardus asked what day of the week that is and how to make reservations.

Mr. Fisher said Oct. 9 is a Sat. and more information could be found on the MMRG website.

Town and City Magazine- Mr. Fisher said the latest edition of the NH Municipal Association's monthly magazine has arrived and it is available for members to read if they wish to do so.

7). FYI:

Pike Industries – Mr. Fisher said he spoke with the Planning Director at last night's Planning Board meeting and he said that Pike Industries is renewing their excavation permit and their application will come before the commission for review at the October meeting.

He said one issue he is aware of is there is a dispute over the ownership of an abutting lot between Pike Industries and the estate of the woman who claimed ownership of that land. He said Pike has been digging on that land for years and the owner did not know it and when it was found out and brought to their attention it seems like the whole world has gotten involved in it.

Mr. Fisher said this issue will have to be resolved before the permit renewal application can be approved and he should know more by next month.

8). Upcoming Dates:

Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 6 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chambers.

9). Fall Cleanup:

Mr. Fisher said he would like to do another trash pickup like was done earlier in the spring possibly in October or November but he has not been able to get more trash bags as they are out of stock. He said the supplier only gets one load of the blue bags early in the spring.

Ms. Bogardus asked if they could use clear bags instead.

Mr. Fisher said he could pickup several boxes of clear bags but the drawback to that is unless he has some help he can't them in and out of his truck.

Ms. Bogardus said they will find somebody to do that and they could pay for some trash bags.

Mr. Fisher said the commission hasn't spent any money this year and they have the money. He said they may be spending some from the conservation fund in the future for the increase in the amount of acreage to be put into conservation on Spring Street/Bay Road. That is still between the lawyers and the estate and we haven't heard back from the lawyers yet he said. He said the land is currently being cut and the intent to cut was read at a previous meeting and they are cutting quite a bit so that will open up that acreage to put in some really good trails.

Ms. Bogardus asked if he has talked with Barry Keith about working on the parking lot.

Mr. Fisher said he has not talked to Mr. Keith about anything recently. He said he would like to see entrances on both sides, some bridges across the Cocheco River, several types of trails including a mountain bike trail, a couple of hiking trails of various levels of difficulty, some picnic tables, an education center and maybe a handicapped access to a fishing spot.

He said most of the conservation areas are on the outskirts of town and this would be in the center of town and close to the schools and they may be able to connect to the school trails.

Mr. Staples returned to the fall cleanup and suggested they do it the same as was done in the spring where they let everybody pick their own road to clean up.

Mr. Fisher said that worked out well and the Con Com would supply the bags and gloves.

Mr. Staples said another way to bring people in to participate is to reach out to the school district with a letter to be sent home with the kids and let the kids know we're doing this. Then if the parents take their kids and do in front of their house the town will be clean he said.

Mr. Fisher recalled that they tried that once before and there is a school policy prohibiting passing out stuff to parents from boards and commissions. He said it is a good idea and he will check into it.

Mr. Staples said if the kids are excited and involved they'll get their parents involved.

Ms. Bogardus said maybe they could give something to the teachers and they can rework it and get the word out somehow.

Mr. Staples said if they schedule the date for the cleanup in advance he can schedule for his truck and dump trailer to be free and take lot of the load off Mr. Fisher.

Mr. Fisher said he has a medical procedure coming up and he may be off his feet for 8 weeks.

Ms. Bogardus suggested they put out a request for help from someone with a truck.

Mr. Fisher said they will figure out something and suggested they continue this discussion at the next meeting and maybe set the date for early November as the snow usually doesn't start to fly until after Thanksgiving and that will also give them time to get the word out.

10). Adjournment:

Motion: (Fitzgerald, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 6:27 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

William "Bill" Fisher, Chairman