

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 10, 2021
Selectmen's Chambers

Commission Members Present:

Bill Fisher, Chairman
Laura Bogardus, Secretary
Larry Fitzgerald

Commission Members Absent:

Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Doug Staples, Selectmen's Rep., excused
Richard Ballou

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment:

No members of the public were present.

Chairman Fisher said if anyone wished to come in and discuss something with the commission he would keep the meeting open to public comment until the close of business tonight.

4). Review of Minutes:

October 13, 2021 – Public Meeting Minutes – No errors or omissions

Motion: (Bogardus, second Fisher) to accept the minutes as written passed 3-0.

5). Old Business:

a). Moose Mountain Regional Greenways- Mr. Fisher said at a previous meeting they discussed MMRG's plans to conserve land in Milton and the possibility of the Con Com making a donation to the project. He said they can't make a donation this year because their accounts have been frozen because it is budget season and they are being audited. He said he is not sure how much is left in the commission's operating budget and there is a little over \$85,000 in the conservation fund.

He said they are probably going to need most of those funds for the acreage that is being donated to the town off of Spring St. and Bay Rd. which is still in the works. He said the owner, who is now living in FLA was having trouble finding the deed and he told her where she could get a copy of the deed and he is awaiting a response from her. Once it is deeded over to her she can deed it to us and the lawyers will work their magic and we'll have a place to go play he said.

b). Dubois Property- Mr. Fisher said 2 weeks ago, 4 days from the deadline, they received a dredge and fill wetlands permit request for property off of Dubois Lane. He said he had to take a quick look at it and submit any comments by Nov. 1 and commission did not have a meeting. He said he reviewed the paperwork and they are doing some trenching, clean up of the area

where the access road goes through the back gate and installing a new culvert. He said he told them they had no comments and he has the paperwork if the members would like to look at it. Ms. Bogardus asked why the application was submitted so late.

Mr. Fisher said the state didn't get the paperwork to the Town on time and the Town called him when it came in to tell him they needed the commission's comments. He said it is nothing out of the ordinary and the commission has no approval authority but is given an opportunity to make comments on potential projects.

He said this will not disturb any wetland areas and they are just doing some trenching along the road to prevent flooding on other people's property.

c). Lancelot Shores Update- Mr. Fisher said the wetlands permit for the boat landing at Lancelot Shores has been approved by the state and they will start work on it soon if they haven't already started.

6). New Business:

a). Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber –Mr. Fisher said the notice is for Tax Map R56, Lot 3 on Meaderboro Road. He said the approximate acreage to be cut is 15 acres from a 28.5 acre lot and the Town received the application on 10/18/21, it was approved and the anticipated start date was 10/25/21.

c). Barry 4-H Conservation Camp- Mr. Fisher said the members do not have to make a decision on this matter tonight. He said Ms. Bogardus received an e-mail from the camp stating they are going to try again to hold the camp sessions after they have been canceled for the last 2 years due to COVID-19 restrictions.

He said they are going to hold themed weeks as done previously and will add a Shooting Sports week for teens 14-17 years old. He said this year's rates are \$540 for a full week and \$330 for shorter weeks.

Mr. Fisher said they tried to send a student to camp for the last 2 years and he is going to try to contact him and see if he is interested in attending the camp this year. We don't have to make a determination until next year he said.

Ms. Bogardus said usually the deadline to reserve a spot is earlier than that.

Mr. Fisher read that open enrollment to the public is in mid-February but they are offering sponsors an opportunity to reserve spots now and they are encouraged to sponsor the same youth they did in 2021 and to make sure their age fits the camp week they want to attend.

He said the list of camp weeks includes 4-H shooting sports, a fish camp, 4-H on the wild side, hunter education, North Country adventure and a junior conservation officer camp.

Ms. Bogardus said usually they would give the information to the schools but if they are going to send the same young man go they should talk to him as she was trying to find his name.

Mr. Fisher said if he still wants to go and is in the age range the commission would take another vote on sending him to camp.

Ms. Bogardus found the young man's name and said she would send it to Mr. Fisher.

Mr. Fisher said he would like the camper identify which camp week he wants to attend by Jan. Ms. Bogardus said they should get in touch with him soon because if he does not want to go or has aged out they will have to get the schools involved to select another potential camper. Mr. Fisher said he will update the members with the student's response but he is not planning on having a meeting in December unless something more important comes up such as the intent to cut notices which must be part of the public record.

d). Wetlands Permit Denied – Mr. Fisher said that today he received a notice from the NH DES that Rochester resident Austin Tremblay owner of the property located at Tax Map R24, Lot 01 had applied for a wetlands permit to do some (unspecified) work on the property and his application was denied due to a lack of the required information. He said the application did not include a topographic map or a natural resources conservation soils map with the types of wetlands and water body crossings indicated so it was turned down.

e). Sidewalks Needed - Mr. Fitzgerald said he did not know if the Town ran out of money but they made a sidewalk only up to the high school entrance and the neighbors were told 5 years ago that a sidewalk would be put on Spring St. up to the Ela River. He said he sees kids walking down Spring St. and there needs to be a sidewalk there.

Mr. Fisher said for many years they have talked about extending the sidewalks along Elm St. into Main St. and along Spring St. He said the Town was approved to receive money from the state and the work is supposed to start a year or 2 from now.

He said the Town also requested funds to build a sidewalk from Paulson Rd. up to the Public Safety Building but that was disapproved because it was too costly.

He said the Town resubmitted the paperwork without the Paulson Rd. section and it got approved several months ago. He said there is not much the Con Com can do about this and suggested that Mr. Fitzgerald bring this up to the Planning Board and to the Selectmen.

7). Upcoming Dates:

a). Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. Fisher said there may be no monthly meeting December depending on the weather conditions and if there are any important issues to address.

8). Adjournment:

Motion: (Bogardus, second Fitzgerald) to adjourn the meeting passed 3-0 at 6:22 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

William "Bill" Fisher, Chairman