

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
Selectmen's Chambers
356 Main Street

Commission Members Present:

Bill Fisher, Chairman
Laura Bogardus, Secretary
Doug Staples, Selectmen's Rep.
Richard Ballou
Blanche Tanner

Others Present:

Sue Fisher, resident

Commission Members Absent:

Larry Fitzgerald, excused

1). Call to Order:

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

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment:

Chairman Fisher welcomed new member Blanche Tanner and said he very much appreciated that she saw that they needed help and stepped up to the plate and joined the Con Com to help them out.

4). Review of Minutes:

January 12, 2022- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Staples, second Bogardus) to accept the minutes as written passed 3-0-2 (Tanner, Ballou abstained).

5). Old Business: None

6). New Business:

a). Notice of Intent to Cut- Tax Map R7, Lots 4 & 5, Meaderboro Road, total acres: 77, acres to be cut: 53, owner: Jason Scruton

b). Scenic Roads Tree Cutting-Mr. Fisher said about every 2 years or so Eversource goes along our roads where the trees are under their power lines and cut them and then clean it up. He said they work with the landowners to make sure they are cutting the right trees and not cutting trees that belong to someone else.

He said the tree trimming is scheduled to take place on River Road, Reservoir Road and Poor

Farm Road which are designated Scenic Roads. There is no start date in the notice he said.

Mr. Fisher said the cuttings would be along the roadways about 10' to 15' from the edge of the road into the properties under their power lines on both sides of the roads.

Ms. Bogardus asked if they are just trimming the trees.

Mr. Fisher said they would be trimming them and cutting down the dead trees (that endanger their lines/equipment). He said they contact the individual landowners and discuss what trees are being trimmed or cut down.

Ms. Tanner said they will contact the owners where they are doing the cutting and asked if that is in-town as well as out on these roads. She said they did some cutting on her road a few years and she never received any notice for it.

Mr. Fisher said it is his understanding that they normally contact the residents.

Mr. Staples said he was contacted was when they wanted to put a truck on his property or take down one of his trees. For trimming, they usually just trim he said.

Mr. Fisher said he wanted to make sure they aren't cutting on conservation land and they aren't. He said if anyone has any questions they can contact him or they can contact Eastern Region Arborist Robert Berner at Eversource by e-mail at robert.berner@eversource.com.

c). SELT Monitoring Reports- Mr. Fisher said every year or so Southeast Land Trust inspects conservation areas they have an interest in and they inspected the Hills, Huppe, Maynard, Smith and Witham Trust properties either by walking the land or viewed them by drones depending the property size. They found no discrepancies and everything looked great he said. He said the reports he received included photos and aerial maps of where they walked for each property and the reports will be kept in the Con Com files at the Municipal Offices.

He read that the Hills property is located on Pound Road, has 49.85 acres; the Huppe property is located on Meaderboro Road and has 79.27 acres; the Maynard property is located on Sheepboro Road and has 10.2 acres; the Smith property is on River and Hornetown Roads and has 7.10 acres and the Witham Land Trust has 98.27 acres.

Mr. Fisher said the report said there is no major erosion and no major invasive species.

d). Hay Day- Ms. Bogardus asked if they know anything about the plans for Hay Day yet.

Mr. Staples said the Rec. Dept. Director posted a notice looking for vendors.

Mr. Fisher said they need to contact the Rec. Dept. to find out the date and get a spot for the Con Com.

Ms. Bogardus said she would be resigning from the Con Com because she is moving to Maine but she would be willing to come down and "yak" with people.

Mr. Fisher then reported that member Randy Orvis has also resigned from the Con Com.

e). New Members Wanted- Mr. Fisher said there are 2 vacancies on the Con Com and soon to be a third (Ms. Bogardus) for regular members and they also need 2 alternate members.

Ms. Bogardus said they need lots of help and there are many things not being done because they don't have the manpower.

f). Spring Cleanup-Mr. Fisher said it is getting closer to spring and they have to start thinking about the spring cleanup which they usually do in April. He said last year they picked up almost 2 tons of garbage and had one of the biggest turnouts they have ever had.

Ms. Bogardus suggested they plan to set the date for the cleanup at their next meeting.

Mr. Staples said they can get trash bags from the Northeast Resource Recovery Association.

Mr. Fisher said they usually do it on a weekend right around Earth Day (Friday, April 22) and that Apr. 23 and 24 were possibilities but Sunday, Apr. 24 is Orthodox Easter and Sunday Apr. 17 is Easter.

Ms. Bogardus said holding the event on Sundays wasn't that successful and suggested they schedule it for a Saturday.

Mr. Fisher asked the members to think about holding it Apr. 23 and that they should conduct it like they did last year where they would meet at the Municipal Office Building and he will supply the vests, trash bags and gloves to volunteers to use while cleaning up their own neighborhoods. He said he would then go around in his pickup truck to pick up the bags (and vests and gloves) and bring the bags to the Transfer Station and advised the volunteers to make sure they have his contact information before leaving the Municipal Offices.

Ms. Tanner said from mid-October to when the snow arrived she walked from her home along Main St. down to the bridge and back as well as some of the side roads picking up trash along the way. She said she got some of the blue trash bags and the Town Administrator gave her permission to leave them behind the Municipal Offices and they took them away.

She said she intends to do that again every couple of weeks once the snow is gone.

f). Town Report Photo- Mr. Fisher reminded the members they need to have a group photo taken after this meeting to go along with Chairman's report in the Annual Town Report.

7). Upcoming Dates:

Next Con Com Meeting- Mr. Fisher said this year's Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. and that would also be their regular monthly meeting night. He asked if the members still wanted to hold a meeting that night or reschedule it to Wed., March 16. Consensus of the members was to reschedule the March meeting to March 16 at 6 p.m.

8). Adjournment:

Motion: (Staples, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 6:22 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

William "Bill" Fisher, Chairman