

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Commission Members Present:

Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Charlie King, Selectmen's Rep.
Bill Fisher
Patience Taylor
Richard Ballou

Commission Members Absent:

Laura Bogardus, excused
John Law, excused

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Seat Alternate Member:

Chairman Connolly asked Alternate member Patience Taylor to sit as a regular member for this meeting. He said he will contact Selectmen and request Ms. Taylor's status be changed to regular member due to an open seat on the Commission.

4). Public Comment: No public present.

5). Review of December 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Approved as written on Jan. 11, 2017.

6). Review of Jan. 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: (Fisher, second Taylor) to approve the minutes as written passed 4-0-2 (King, Orvis abstained).

7). Old Business:

A) 911 Designations- Mr. Connolly said the conservation properties on River Road and Bay Road have been assigned 911 address designations as follows; 321 Bay Road (Abbot's Grant), 275 Bay Road (Waldron property) and 290 River Road (Dubois property). He said the Pound on Pound Road has also been designated as 64 Pound Road.

1). Signs- Mr. Connolly asked for volunteers to help erect the address signs at the properties. Mr. Fisher volunteered to install the address signs.

Mr. Connolly advised Mr. Fisher to submit an invoice for the materials used for the signs. The members also discussed whether to install a sign at the Pound Road site.

Mr. Orvis advised the ground in the area has much ledge and many rocks so installation in the ground may be difficult. Discussion included other possible locations and solutions for the Pound Road site. Mr. Fisher said he will visit the site and see what can be done to display an address sign.

B). School Recycling- Mr. Connolly said the Commission's liaison to the School Board and the school recycling program was handled by a former member and asked for a volunteer to

become the new liaison.

Ms. Taylor and Mr. Fisher agreed to take on the school recycling program.

Mr. Connolly said he will pass on the program materials to the volunteers after the meeting.

C). Spring Clean Up- Members discussed potential dates for the annual clean-up usually held near Earth Day which occurs on Saturday, April 22. Discussion included avoiding a conflict with the grand opening of the Public Safety Building, organizing the event, contacting sponsors and soliciting donations and volunteers. Consensus of the members was to schedule the pick-up for Saturday, May 6. The members will confirm plans for the event at the April meeting.

D). Any Other Old Business- Vice Chairman Orvis said he contacted Randy Tetreault for an update on the proposed handicapped fishing access on the Ronci property. He said Mr. Tetreault said he was working on a drawing of the site including the wetlands areas. He said Barry Keith has been unavailable for the project due to a family matter.

Mr. Orvis said Mr. Keith has not received payment of the \$2,500 invoice submitted earlier.

Mr. Connolly said the invoice was not paid due to his recent injury but is currently in the process of being paid. He added that they have now spent about half of the \$7,000 proposed cost of the project.

Mr. Orvis said he intends to attend the pre-application meeting for a wetlands permit with the NH Wetlands Bureau to explain the intent of the project and why the commission wants to provide the access in the proposed location.

8). New Business:

A). Resignation- Mr. Connolly read a letter from Resta Detwiler stating her resignation from the Commission was effective Feb. 24, 2017.

Motion: (Orvis, second King) to accept the resignation of Resta Detwiler passed unanimously.

B). Moose Mountain Regional Greenways Annual Dinner- Mr. Connolly asked if any members were interested in attending the dinner to be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Governor's Inn in Rochester. The cost to attend is \$105 per person. None of the members present expressed an interest in attending. Mr. Connolly said he would contact the absent members and ask them if they were interested in attending the dinner.

Motion: (Connolly, second Ballou) to expend up to \$107 to send up to 3 members to the MMRG Annual Dinner passed 6-0.

C). BH Keith Associates- Mr. Connolly said the contract with Forester Barry Keith to provide easement management duties for the French and Dubois properties has expired. He said the maintenance of the Dubois property has been caught up and suggested the woodcock singing ground area on the French property may need to be cut annually.

Mr. King asked if Mr. Keith charges by the hour or if he is on a retainer with the Commission.

Mr. Connolly said Mr. Keith is paid by the hour for his services.

Mr. Orvis said that in the past Mr. Keith has subcontracted some of the work to Steve Yurick and suggested the Commission could do the same.

Mr. King suggested they extend an open-ended agreement with Mr. Keith to use his services only when needed.

Mr. Connolly said that is how the recent contract worked- if he is not needed, he doesn't get paid. He added the contract with Mr. Keith for forest management services for the Town Forest expires in June and suggested his contract be renewed to continue the work needed there.

Mr. Orvis asked if the Dubois and French contracts could be combined into one contract. Mr. Connolly said he would ask Mr. Keith to provide a contract proposal and noted that Mr. Keith is scheduled to come before the Commission in April.

9). FYI:

Intent to Cut Notice- Tax Map R26, Lot 1- Sheepboro Road- Owner Doug Stewart- intent to cut 25 acres of a 160 acre property.

Mr. Orvis noted this property abuts the Huppe property and that the listed start date for cutting was Jan. 15, 2017 so the work has probably been completed.

10). Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 2017

11). Any Other Business:

Elections and Town Meeting- Mr. Connolly reminded residents that the Town Elections will take place on Tuesday, March 14 and the Town Meeting will take place the following evening on Wednesday, March 15. He stressed the importance of voting and urged everyone to get out and vote.

12). Adjournment:

Motion: (Orvis, second Fisher) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 6:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Dave Connolly, Chairman