

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Commission Members Present:

Dave Connolly, Chairman
Laura Bogardus, Secretary
Charlie King, Selectmen's Rep.
Patience Taylor
Bill Fisher
Tom Sorensen

Commission Members Absent:

Richard Ballou
Randy Orvis, excused

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Connolly 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: None

4). Review of Minutes:

Nov. 8, 2017- No errors or omissions

Motion: (Bogardus, second Fisher) to accept the minutes as written passed 4-0-2 (King, Sorensen abstained).

5). Old Business:

A). EAB Forum- Ms. Taylor said she received informational materials regarding the Emerald Ash Borer from the state to post around town and asked if the Selectmen's Secretary could make additional copies for posting. The members then discussed where to post the flyers (local stores, lumber/firewood suppliers, Town buildings, Goodwin Library and local restaurants) and the number of copies needed.

Ms. Bogardus said that a forum entitled "NH Bugs: The Big Three- Invasive Forest Pests and How to Spot Them" is scheduled for Jan. 24, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Public Safety Building. UNH Cooperative Extension Volunteer Alicia Geilen will be the guest speaker and will speak about the Asian Long Horned Beetle, the Woolly Adelgid and the Emerald Ash Borer she said. She added that she had several copies of the forum notice to advertise the event around town. Mr. Connolly suggested they could also be mailed to the local firewood companies and posted on the Town website, Cable TV Channel 26 Calendar of Events and the Farmington Community Forum Face book page.

Mr. Connolly reported that Andrew Fast attended a Board of Selectmen's meeting and informed the board about the EAB and the quarantine placed on Strafford County.

Mr. King said Mr. Fast was very informative and that it is unfortunate that there are no treatments for problem currently available.

Mr. Connolly said that awareness is the most important issue now and to take steps to slow the spread of the invasive pests.

B). School Recycling Update- Mr. Fisher said there was no update on this issue at this time.

C). Any Other Old Business- Mr. Connolly said he received a contract renewal proposal from BH Keith for management of the French and Dubois properties. The current contract expired December 1, 2017 and renewal contract seeks to extend the agreement for one year he said.

Mr. King asked if there is any reason the Commission would not renew the contract.

Mr. Connolly said there is no reason not to renew the agreement.

Mr. Fisher asked about the price to renew the contract.

Mr. Connolly said Mr. Keith provides his services on an as needed basis so there is no stated fee to renew the contract. Mr. Keith monitors management services as recommended or requested, conducts the follow up of services rendered and is also the Commission's representative with NH Fish and Game he said.

Motion: (Fisher, second King) to renew the contract with BH Keith Associates and to allow the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the Commission passed 6-0.

6). New Business:

A). Grants- Mr. Connolly said the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) applied for two grants regarding the Hills property on Pound Road on behalf of the Con Com. He reminded the members that the Commission previously donated \$3,500 to the project. SELT applied for a \$3,500 and \$15,000 grant and both grants were awarded to fund the conservation easement for the property. He said the Commission will be named as an executor on the easement.

Mr. Connolly then told the members that a third grant for \$1,650 was awarded for a matter still under non-public status. He said more details will be available when the matter is unsealed.

B). Thompson Walk- Mr. Connolly reported that he participated in the yearly monitoring walk of the Thompson property with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways members. He said the group walked for approx. 2.5 miles which is small fraction of the property. Everything looked good, it went well and there is nothing to report except that is it awesome property he said.

C). Membership Renewals- Mr. Connolly said three members of the Commission (Ms. Bogardus, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Ballou) terms are up and they must request re-appointment if they wish to remain members. He said the application forms were included in their meeting packets and asked them to fill them out and return them to the Selectmen's Secretary for approval by Selectmen.

D). Any Other New Business – Mr. Connolly said he received two invoices from BH Keith – one bill for forest administration and follow up of the Dubois property (\$75) and a second invoice for site reconnaissance of the Town Forest (\$225).

Motion: (Bogardus, second King) to pay BH Keith Associates what is owed to him passed 6-0

7). FYI:

A). Budget Presentation- Mr. Connolly told the members that the Con Com's proposed 2018 budget will be presented to Board of Selectmen at their next meeting. He said the total amount requested will be \$3,000 and remains unchanged from 2017.

8). January Meeting Date Change: Mr. Connolly informed the members that he will not be able to attend the regular Con Com meeting scheduled for 1/10/18. He asked the members to consider moving the meeting to Thursday, Jan. 11 as the Budget Committee has scheduled meetings for Wednesdays in January.

Consensus of the Commission was to move the meeting to 1/11/18.

He added that there will be a presentation at the Jan. 11 meeting from a Henry Wilson School student seeking sponsorship to the Barry 4H Camp.

9). Any Other Business: None

10). Adjournment:

Motion: (Bogardus, second Taylor) to adjourn the meeting passed 6-0 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

Dave Connolly, Chairman