

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Laura Bogardus, Commission Secretary
Richard Ballou (6:10 p.m.)
Resta Detwiler

Committee Members Absent:

Bill Fisher, excused
Rose Muise
Charlie King Selectmen's Rep.

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:

August 10, 2016 – No corrections were made.

Motion: (Detwiler, second Connolly) to approve the minutes as written passed 3-1 (Bogardus abstained).

5). Presentation by Jonathan Buckman:

Mr. Buckman did not attend the meeting. Chairman Connolly thanked him for participation at the Commission's Hay Day booth and displayed a handmade Thank You card from Mr. Buckman to the Commission.

6). Ronci Property RFPs:

Chairman Connolly said that following last month's site walk with potential bidders for the proposed handicapped fishing access project on the Mad River, only one bid has been received. Mr. Connolly asked Commission Secretary Bogardus to open the bid. The envelope contained a proposal from Norway Plains Associates, Inc. /BH Keith Associates. The bid proposal outlined the qualifications and experience of Scott Lawler and Barry Keith who would be the principle project leaders.

The bidders proposed the project be completed in two phases as follows:

Phase One-Determine the feasibility of a Design/Build plan for the access including permit development, parking, walkway and platform consistent with ADA guidelines.

Phase Two- Submit design, obtain needed permits and construction of the access site.

The proposal also included a fee schedule, a \$1,000 retainer requirement and a cost estimate of about \$7,000 for the project.

Discussion included the cost estimate does not include any available grants, the phase

one information will be needed to apply for grants, the project may/may not be feasible, this is not a cheap project, it may not be wheelchair accessible but could be accessible to others and the feasibility study is a small gamble on a possible huge return.

Motion: (Orvis, second Detwiler) to accept the bid from Norway Plains Associates, Inc. and to pay the \$1,000 retainer passed 5-0.

7). Old Business:

A). Hay Day Review- Chairman Connolly reported that the event went well and there was a good turnout and level of participation. He cited the 4H's "chicken cluckers", MMRG, York Wildlife and the SELT volunteers as some of the event's popular displays. He thanked everyone who attended and assisted at the event.

B). Town Forest- Chairman Connolly told the members the small piece of property on Bay Road adjacent to the Town Forest was accepted by Selectmen and has been turned over for supervision by the Conservation Commission.

Motion: (Detwiler, second Bogardus) to accept the conservation deed to the Bay Road parcel which requires three signatures to be recorded at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds and become part of the Town Forest passed 5-0.

C). French Trail Review/Final Prep- Chairman Connolly reminded viewers the reveal of the Town's first marked hiking trail will be held on Sunday, Sept. 18 at 1:30 p.m. on Hornetown Road. State Senator Sam Cataldo, State Rep. Joe Pitre, representatives from the NH Office of Energy and Planning and NH Fish and Game, Town Administrator Arthur Capello, Farmington Board of Selectmen, Farmington Police Dept., DPW Director Dale Sprague, Steve Yurick and Rod Thompson are among the expected guests. Discussion included parking and set-up, the trail is easy to moderate in difficulty and dressing appropriately for the weather and walking.

Mr. Connolly thanked Mr. Orvis for providing the new trail map for kiosk at the site.

D). French E-911- Chairman Connolly reported that the entrance to the French property has received an E-911 designation. The site will be known as the "French Conservation, 30 Hornetown Road". He said Mr. Fisher has volunteered to produce a sign to be installed at the site. Consensus of the Commission was request that Mr. Fisher construct a brown and yellow two-sided sign to be installed perpendicular to the road.

E). Dubois Mowing Quote- Steve Yurick of JS Land Design Services submitted a proposal to mow and trim the swales in a 1.5 acre section of the Dubois property at a cost of \$300. He added the quote is good for the remainder of the season.

Motion: (Orvis, second Bogardus) to accept the bid from Steve Yurick to mow 1.5 acres passed 5-0.

F). Town Forest Tree Removal Quote- Chairman Connolly said several trees in the area of the Abbott's Grant parking lot are dead and some need to be removed to allow for the expansion of the lot. He received a quote from Urban Tree Service to remove nine pine and hemlock trees, prune four trees up to the good growth, chip the debris and leave the logs using three workers for \$1,800. Discussion included the location of the trees

needing removal, whether to wait until next year to remove the trees, if the Town plans to supply the materials for the parking lot and if the stumps will be pulled before the gravel is put in.

Consensus of the members was to walk the site and table the decision until next month.

G). Any Other Old Business- None.

8). New Business:

A). Smith Gate- Chairman Connolly said he received an e-mail notifying him that the gate was “wide open” when it should be chained and locked. He said he reported it to the Farmington Police Dept. who investigated the area and found no evidence that a vehicle had entered the property. He speculated that someone bumped the weld plate on the gate which broke causing the gate to fall open. He said that he purchased and installed a new lock and chain for approx. \$20.

B). 2016 Conservationist- Chairman Connolly reminded the members that each year the Commission awards the “Conservationist of the Year” to an individual, group or business at the annual Town Meeting in March. He asked members to be thinking of nominees for the award.

C). 2017 Spring Clean Up- Chairman Connolly then asked members to start thinking about plans for the next clean-up usually held in April or May each year. He suggested the members consider contacting the headquarters of the fast food, beer and soda companies whose containers litter the roadways in Town. He added the idea is not to blame them for the actions of others but to seek their assistance/support of the clean-up event.

D). 2017 Arbor Day- Mr. Connolly noted that nothing was done to commemorate the day in 2016. Discussion included that plans to plant an American chestnut tree at the Henry Wilson Middle School fell through and to look into obtaining a tree from the American Chestnut Foundation for next year.

E). 2017 School Involvement- Discussion included reactivating the recycling program at the high school, starting a recycling program at the middle school, find ways to involve home schooled students and to recruit interested high school students to become student representatives to the Commission. Chairman Connolly added that public education is the most important function of the Conservation Commission.

F). Any Other New Business- None.

9). FYI:

A). Intent to Cut- Tax Map R63, Lot 22 – Bay Road- 35 acres of a 40 acre parcel to be cut.

10). Upcoming Dates:

A). Trail Reveal, French Property – Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

B). Next Meeting-Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 6 p.m.

11). Any Other Business: None.

12). Adjournment:

Motion: (Ballou, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 7 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Dave Connolly, Chairman