

Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Laura Bogardus, Secretary
Charlie King, Selectmen's Rep.
Rose Muise
Bill Fisher
Richard Ballou
Resta Detwiler

1). Call to Order:

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

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present.

4). Review Minutes:

September 14, 2016 – There were no corrections or omissions.

Motion: (Detwiler, second Ballou) to approve the minutes as written passed 5-0-3 (Muise, King, Fisher abstained).

5). Old Business:

A). French Trail Reveal-

1). Summary- Chairman Connolly reviewed the results of the reveal of the new trail held on September 18 at the site on Hornetown Road. He said approx. 12 people attended the presentation and walked the trail including NH Fish and Game Land Agent Richard Cook and NH Office of Energy and Planning Conservation Stewardship Specialist Steve Walker who praised the Commission's efforts and said the trail should be used as a model for other towns trying to develop their trail areas.

2). Letter from DRED- Chairman Connolly then read a letter from NH DRED Commissioner Jeffery Rose who thanked the members for the invitation to attend the event although he was unable to attend. He wrote that trails are very valuable to the town and offered his best wishes and congratulations to all for their accomplishments.

Chairman Connolly added that there will be yearly maintenance of the trail to oversee and then thanked everyone involved for a "good job".

B). Town Forest-

1). Urban Quote- Chairman Connolly asked if anyone had the opportunity to walk the site to view the trees needing removal as discussed at the previous meeting. None of the members

were able to visit the site. Discussion included the \$1,800 quote received from Urban Tree Service for the cutting, chipping and pruning of 9 trees, some of the expense may be due to bringing in a bucket truck to reach the upper limbs of the trees and asking the company to reduce the price.

Consensus of the Commission was to send the work out as an RFP and to include Urban Tree Service.

C). Dubois Mowing- Chairman Connolly reported the mowing work has been completed and the area looks good.

D). Spring Clean Up 2017- Members discussed ways to promote the event and increase the number of participants. Suggestions included holding a contest and award a prize for the most trash picked up, hold a raffle with prizes donated by sponsors, include other activities such as raking and mulching areas in town, Adopt-a-Spot and reaching out to fast food, beer and soda companies for financial support and/or employee participation.

Chairman Connolly said he plans to contact the regional headquarters for Anheuser Busch in Londonderry, NH and the local McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts for more information.

Mr. King said he received a complaint regarding trash on Ridge Road which he intended to discuss with the Town Administrator.

Mr. Orvis said there is also a television sitting on the side of the road on River Road near the "S" turn.

Mr. Connolly noted that he reported the TV to the DPW Director 2 weeks ago.

Mr. King then said he received a text from the Town Administrator who said he will address the complaints with the DPW Director.

E). Arbor Day 2017- Members continued the discussion from the previous meeting regarding providing a tree for the Henry Wilson Middle School. Discussion included planting an American chestnut tree at the school, obtaining the chestnut tree through the American Chestnut Foundation and to consider other types of trees for the site.

Mr. Orvis noted that where the Chestnut tree will be planted must be a member of the American Chestnut Foundation if the tree is provided by the foundation.

Mr. Connolly said a regular membership in the foundation costs \$40 and regular members will receive chestnut seeds in order of their membership longevity as available. Sponsor level members would pay \$300 to join and receive a seedling he said.

Additional discussion included to see if any of the native Chestnut trees in town are dropping seeds, inviting a foundation member to speak about Chestnut trees, Cedar trees and there are no trees at the Farmington High School site.

Members will discuss the issue again at next month's meeting.

F). Schools- Mr. Connolly reported he met with a representative from the Henry Wilson School to discuss starting a recycling program at the school.

Ms. Detwiler said there are 2 high school students scheduled to attend next month's meeting.

She said she assumes they plan to join the Commission as student representatives. Mr.

Connolly said they will need to fill out an application for membership which can be found on the Town website.

G). Any Other Old Business-

1). Bay Road Parcel- Mr. Connolly said that due to a technical error the Conservation Warranty Deed for the Bay Road parcel abutting the Town Forest signed at the previous meeting needs to

be re-signed. The members signed the deed and it will be re-submitted to the Strafford County Registry of Deeds.

Mr. Connolly added the parking lot at the Town Forest is littered with trash and suggested the surveillance cameras be put back up.

Motion: (King, second Bogardus) to put the cameras back up passed unanimously.

Ms. Muise volunteered some boys she said “needed to be working” to pick up the trash at the parking lot and said she will transport the litter to the Transfer Station.

6). New Business:

A). NHACC Annual Meeting- Mr. Connolly said the NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the Pembroke Academy in Pembroke, NH. Ms. Detwiler expressed interest in attending.

Motion: (Connolly, second King) to spend up to \$100 to send interested members to the NHACC Annual Meeting passed unanimously.

B). Any Other New Business- None.

7). FYI: None.

8). Next Meeting: November 9, 2016 at 6 p.m.

9). Any Other Business: None.

10). Adjournment:

Motion: (Ballou, second Detwiler) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 6:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary

Dave Connolly, Chairman