

Town of Farmington  
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020

**Commission Members Present:**

Laura Bogardus, Chairman  
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman  
Ann Titus, Selectmen's Rep.  
Richard Ballou  
Larry Fitzgerald  
Michelle Elbert  
Tom Sorensen

**Commission Members Absent:**

Bill Fisher, Secretary, excused

**Others Present:**

Justin Cahill  
Carter Cahill

**1). Call to Order:**

Chairman Bogardus 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:**

Chairman Bogardus said that Mr. Fisher will take a leave of absence from the commission for four months to address a health issue.

**4). Review of Minutes:**

January 8, 2020- No errors or omissions

**Motion:** (Elbert, second Titus) to accept the minutes as written passed 6-0-1 (Ballou abstained).

**5). Old Business:**

**Bylaws** – Chairman Bogardus said former Con Com Chairman Dave Connolly provided the commission with a set of Con Com bylaws from 2010. She said at a previous meeting the members made some revisions to Article #9 and added some wording as suggested by Mr. Orvis which is not contained in this set of bylaws.

Mrs. Elbert gave Chairman Bogardus her copy of bylaws with her notes on the revisions made by the members to assist her with updating the 2010 bylaws.

Chairman Bogardus said she would make the revisions to 2010 bylaws as previously decided by the commission and e-mail it to the members for review. She asked the members to then go over it and make any additional amendments they think necessary and they would vote on them at the next meeting and then forward them to the Selectmen for approval.

**6). New Business:**

**Forestry Forum** – Chairman Bogardus said the members previously discussed hosting another

forestry forum on timber harvesting at the Town Forest as it was recently harvested. She said she spoke with UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry Field Specialist Rebecca Digirolomo who is willing to come here and hold a forum with the commission but she would like to do an initial walk on Friday, April 10 to familiarize herself with what is going on at the Town Forest.

Chairman Bogardus said she planned to deliver the Forestry Management Plan to Ms. Digirolomo so she can review it ahead of the site visit. She said Ms. Digirolomo requested that Forestry Consultant Barry Keith be present and there would be a charge (\$200-\$300) for his attendance which requires a motion to approve the expenditure of the funds for that purpose. Mrs. Elbert asked what the benefit would be to having Mr. Keith attend the initial walk with Ms. Digirolomo.

Chairman Bogardus said it would be to show her and to explain what is going on at the Town Forest. She said she would like Mr. Keith to attend either the initial walk with Ms. Digirolomo or the forum but she did not think he needs to go to both walks.

Mr. Ballou said he thought it would be most useful for Mr. Keith to walk the site with Ms. Digirolomo before the forum.

Mr. Orvis asked when the forum would be held.

Chairman Bogardus suggested that it be scheduled on a week night sometime in June.

Mr. Orvis added that if they wait until June it will be after black fly season. He suggested that it might be better to ask Mr. Keith to attend the forum so he could also answer questions from the public.

Chairman Bogardus said Ms. Digirolomo should be able to get most of the information from the forest management plan.

Mr. Orvis said Ms. Digirolomo is a forester and will talk about timber harvesting and that Mr. Keith's expertise includes wildlife biology as well as forest management.

Chairman Bogardus said Mr. Keith can speak to the individual Town Forest and why the plan was designed the way it was and Ms. Digirolomo can speak to the larger issue of timber harvesting in general.

Mr. Orvis suggested that Ms. Digirolomo walk the Town Forest with commission members in April and if she has any questions she can call Mr. Keith and doesn't have to meet him on site. Consensus of the members was to ask Mr. Keith to attend the forestry forum in June.

Chairman Bogardus said she would find out the cost to have Mr. Keith attend the forum and suggested they decide on spending the money for Mr. Keith's fee at a future meeting.

**BH Keith Invoice** – Chairman Bogardus said she received an invoice from Mr. Keith for the boundary line inspection and installation of the NH Fish and Game easement signage per the state easement monitor's recommendations on the French and Dubois lots. She said the invoice stated Mr. Keith worked the sites for 6.5 hours at \$60 an hour for \$390 plus \$45 for mileage so the total of the invoice is \$435.

**Motion:** (Orvis, second Elbert) to pay the bill passed 7-0.

**Conservation Easement Monitoring Reports** – Chairman Bogardus said she received the 2019 monitoring reports from SELT (Southeast Land Trust) of the various properties in town that they monitor. She said all of the lots received good marks and then passed out the reports for the members to review. She said she would put the reports in the Con Com office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Mrs. Elbert asked if anything has become of the farm house on the right side of Meetinghouse Hill Road as you start to go up the hill.

Ms. Bogardus said nothing is happening with that property yet.

**Leary Easement** – Chairman Bogardus said the conservation easement project for the Leary property has been completed and signed and is “good to go”. She said that Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) published an article about the completion of the project if the members wished to read it and noted that they make very good maple syrup there.

**Bee There** – Chairman Bogardus said the Goodwin Library will host speaker Amy Antonucci who will speak on Beekeeping on March 17. She said the librarian has asked if the commission would be willing to split the speaker’s fee with the library.

**Motion:** (Ballou, second none) to split the speaker’s fee with library;

Mrs. Elbert asked if the total speaker fee is \$50 or \$100.

Chairman Bogardus said the total fee is \$100 so the Con Com and the library would each pay \$50.

**Motion:** (Ballou, second Elbert) to split the speaker’s fee with the library and to give them \$50 passed 7-0.

Chairman Bogardus said the start time for the talk has not been determined and she will let the members know as soon as it is decided.

**OHRV Report** – Mr. Orvis said he met with the New Durham Board of Selectmen last Monday and that it looks like they will be able to get a trail system up and running this year that will start at Johnson’s Restaurant and run to Libby Road near the Farmington town line. He said he received permission from a property owner for a trail end on Libby Road and they went to the New Durham Selectmen for permission to use short sections of some class VI roads (Libby, Jenkins, Bennett, and Caney Roads). The trail would then cross 2 landowners’ lots and then go down to Route 11 where they will have to get permission from NH DOT to use the snow mobile trail alongside Route 11.

Mr. Orvis said they are promoting the trails as part of the economic development of this area and their best anchor is in New Durham not in Farmington but that is where they had to start.

Mrs. Elbert asked if the trails will eventually link up with the old railroad beds.

Mr. Orvis said he has to figure out which landowners he needs permission from to get down through the ridge and that he has gotten permission from Charlie King to cross his property that runs from Ten Rod Road to Route 11 and fronts the highway near where the railroad tracks cross. He said that section of the railroad bed was purchased from the railroad with federal money that prohibits the use of wheeled vehicles-even bicycles. It is my understanding that the

state has repaid the federal government the money they received for the Claremont section so they can open it to ATV's and they are working on getting a waiver for the section in Woodsville and once that is done they will come and work on ours. They can't open it unless there is a destination on each end of the trail and that is what we are working on now. Then we have to figure out how to get through Rochester to our trails in Somersworth/Rollinsford he said.

**Mountain Lion Talk** – Chairman Bogardus said that MMRG will host wildlife expert/photographer Susan Morse on Feb. 21 at Kingswood High School for a presentation of "The Cougar Returns to the East" and the tickets are \$10 per person. She said that 2 wildlife tracking workshop will be held on Feb. 22 and the tickets are \$35 each. Contact Kari Lygren at MMRG for more information she said.

Mr. Orvis left the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to attend the EDC meeting being held upstairs.

**Seacoast Eat Local**- Chairman Bogardus said the commission usually gives a yearly \$100 donation to the organization (which operates the SAMM van- Seacoast Area Mobile Market) and receives a mention in their newsletter or catalog. She said this year they are making some changes to their sponsorship opportunities and are inviting businesses and organizations to create their own ads and are updating their publications to showcase businesses that support seacoast farms. The \$100 sponsorship no longer exists and it would cost at least \$250 for a mention in one of their publications she said.

Consensus of the members was to continue to donate \$100 as the commission does not need an ad/mention in their publications.

**Motion:** (Ballou, second Titus) to give Seacoast Local \$100 like we have in the past passed 6-0.

### **7). Meet Our Youngest Recycler:**

Mrs. Titus introduced 8 year old Carter Cahill to the commission members and told them that he started his own recycling program and is one of the youngest members of this community to do something like this. She said she is very proud of young Mr. Cahill and hopes that this will inspire the community to work together and then asked him to tell the members what he does. Carter said he picks up the recycling stuff so we can help the Earth. He said he goes on Main Street and Ridge Road to pick up trash and brings the stuff to be dumped at the Farmington Transfer Station.

He said he plans to buy a trash truck and start his own business when he gets older.

Mrs. Elbert asked how long he has been doing this.

Carter said he started doing this when he was 7 years old and has been doing it for 1 month and 1 year.

Mrs. Titus presented Carter with a small token of the commission's appreciation for his efforts (a \$5 gift card and a package of Reese's candy) and urged him to keep up the good work and to tell his friends about it.

Mrs. Titus presented the items to Carter while the members praised and thanked him with a round of applause.

Mr. Justin Cahill thanked the commission for their invitation and their kind words.

Chairman Bogardus thanked Mrs. Titus for bringing Carter and his recycling program to their attention.

Mrs. Titus said she hoped that others will see Carter on TV and be inspired to say their kid can do that too and go clean up the Town roads.

**8). Upcoming Dates:**

March Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, March 18, 2020 (due to Town Meeting on March 11)

**9). Adjournment:**

**Motion:** (Ballou, second Elbert) to adjourn the meeting passed 6-0 at 6:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

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Laura Bogardus, Chairman