

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
January, 8, 2020

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David McTigue, Vice-Chair, Matt Oliveira, Michael Bara, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Rep), Karen Miller, Lori Rautiola, Secretary
ABSENT: Jack Messe

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office on January 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Karen made a motion to approve the December 11, 2019 minutes as written. Kleta seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Bob stated he would like to streamline the process of obtaining a building permit and have other local boards input regarding a development permit. This means a permit would be required to cut trees or do any digging on the property before a building permit is issued. Bob would like to make some progress in 2020 on this issue.

Signs: The Commission discussed ordering signs for boundary markers. Size and colors were discussed and the location of the logo. The Commission agreed aluminum would be a good choice of material. Lori will reach out to Voss signs to get another quote on what was discussed.

Lands: Bob distributed a document showing monitoring assignments. Each member agreed with their responsibilities. Bob noted the best time to conduct a report and monitor the property would be in the fall when the leaves are off the trees or in the early spring. Bob mentioned he had some concerns with the online monitoring report he had created; adding, it may be confusing for some of the members. He stated the simpler the form is the better the transition will be for new members. He does not want members to get discouraged from monitoring the properties, adding, the he will come up with a simple online form that is easy for members to fill in and keep that on file at the Town Office. Kleta questioned who is in charge of cleaning up garbage that is found on a conservation property. Bob responded it is not usually the person in charge of monitoring the property and would normally be the owner of the property; however, members of the Commission could work together to clean up a property if necessary.

Members revisited the use of drones. Members agreed having “boots on the ground” (walking the property) is valuable and the drone should not take the place of that. Members discussed GIS mapping. Bob stated he will not be on the Commission forever and does not want the Town to suffer and not have GIS, adding it is important the Town start to inquire about purchasing a GIS system so when he retires a smooth transition can take place. Kleta asked how the Commission could inform people about the issue and Karen suggested having a presentation for the local boards (planning, zoning, etc.) not as a Conservation Representative, but as a knowledgeable GIS source that can explain the big picture of how useful GIS is.

Members discussed potential lands for future protection. Matt mentioned he found a 30 acre parcel on Route 124 for sale with an asking price of \$215,000. Matt questioned if that was a reasonable amount of money for the size. Bob responded stating it depends on the natural resources, habitat, linkage etc. Bob

displayed a map on the big screen showing all undeveloped land that is larger than 25 acres. It was noted the Commission will narrow down the results for potential land protection at next months meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola,
Secretary

DRAFT