

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Dec 9, 2020

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David McTigue, Matt Oliveira, Kleta Dudley, Karen Miller and Susan Mallett, Secretary

ABSENT: Michael Barar, Jack Messe

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. The Covid-19 Right to Know Checklist is required to be read prior to acceptance into the meeting

General discussion:

Bob introduced Susan as the new secretary.

Bob noted that going forward the minutes will be mailed out ahead of time. And if no meeting a document will be placed with the minutes of prior meetings noting that no meeting occurred on that day. This will let us know that no meeting occurred rather than trying to determine if minutes were not done or there was no meeting.

Dave made a MOTION to approve the last minutes. Matt SECONDED this. All were in favor.

Trails:

Bob noted there may be too many trail markers up at the Williams property and probably 25% could be taken down

Discussion on the Sunapee signage, \$70 dollars each, and would need 25 signs. This would be about \$1,750. Painted signs not so good, due to fading and peeling. Plain unpainted is better durability. Matt asked what about metal signs. Bob noted they should last 10 years, metal may rust. The map is color coded, Dave suggested arrows on sign could be color coded too, but they would have to be done by hand and it's not that compelling if that costly. Bob noted the trails are not that long so is it necessary really, but we could ask the guy about pricing. Matt asked what option is less maintenance. Karen said it has to be visible. Bob says he will sleep on this.

Bridging is needed on Old Schoolhouse Trail. The materials needed to do this were discussed

QR Code was tested by the attendees with mixed results, one person was not able to access it, but that could be an issue with that particular phone. Other people were using iPhone and Android were able to access the web page with the map. This is technology that could be used on junctions, places of note and also to describe trees, wildlife etc in the area. Bob asked who could laminate, and Susan noted we have a laminator in the office and she could do them. They would be 4 inches square approximately

Beacons were the next item up for discussion. These broadcast a signal, essentially they look for you to be in a certain proximity. When you get close it can pop up information on your phone. This is newer technology than QR codes. Beacons cost about \$15 and pilferage would be one issue but they are hard to see unless you are looking for them. Give this some thought for the future.

Monitoring:

Bob noted we have lots of conservation properties of different types. He had attached a worksheet to the meeting information that outlines responsibility. We reviewed where properties are and easements.

Conservation members are to monitor their assignments. He was concerned we are not monitoring like we should, and suggested someone be in charge of making sure this is done. Dave mentioned at one time there was talk about leading a group to explain what the process is to be sure everyone understood the process. Bob mentioned we could do that, and suggested we keep forms in book. Kleta asked who has the binders at the office and the reply is there is a binder in the meeting room at town office. The forms can also be picked up at the office as well. Keeping up with the monitoring is important, especially if something were to happen that became a legal issue, it would look unfavorable to us if we hadn't kept up with it.

Water Resources:

Bob mentioned this is an item he wanted to look at for a while. Do we have any candidates for Prime Wetlands? Paperwork at DES to designate as Prime Wetlands. These can be public or private property, and qualify as a tax write off. Asking team to take a look at the maps to see what kind of wetlands might be appropriate for this. This will be an ongoing process.

Election of Members:

Bob made a motion to nominate Kleta as alternate for 2021. Matt seconded the motion and the result was unanimous in favor.

At the next meeting, will follow up with Mike's nomination.

New Business;

Veague-Krauss:

Some discussion was had on the 88 acres (44 on each side) and how it really can't be developed because it is divided by a Class A trail and protected. Best use current owner can do at the time is to put it into Current Use or sell 44 acres to the town, possibly owner could put it into protection. It doesn't make economic sense for new owners. Question was asked if we know that the deal went thru yet.

Tax Map Updates:

Deb was a proponent of this, however with her new position she may not have time. Conservation was willing to pay 50% of the cost of update. There needs to be a warrant article for the \$150K. Committee could do the RFP. Due process needs to be done. Dave asked what would be the next steps, and it was discussed how to get the other boards (ZBA, Planning, Conservation, Assessors) to recognize the need and be on board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mallett