

DRAFT MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2015

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Dixie Blease, David McTigue, Matt Oliveira, Joanne Meshna

PUBLIC: Kleta Dudley (SOLAC Representative), Gretchen Rae

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

Committee Reports:

Trails: no report.

Lands: Bob reported someone had spray painted "Nussdorfer Nature Area" at the trailhead. David has a sign that will be placed in that location when weather permits.

Communications: Members reviewed possible logos submitted by Brenna. Bob will make some color changes and distribute them to the Committee.

Bob announced the website now has GIS Glue capability which is a tracking beacon that allows someone with a mobile device to see a blinking beacon indicating where they are on the map or where they are on a piece of land.

Water Resources: Stream signs will be installed in the spring. The Commission will have to pay for the posts for the signs.

New Business: There is a petition warrant article this year to reduce the \$50,000 cap of current use money paid to the Conservation Commission to \$10,000. Bob noted that over the past ten years \$25,000 is the average amount per year the Commission has received. Bob suggested doing a mailing to all homes just before the vote justifying the Commission's case. Question arose if monies from the Conservation Commission accounts can be used for the mailing. Joanne will contact town counsel.

Bob reported he has been approached by several people questioning why the Commission is not more proactive with regard to the proposed pipeline. Bob reminded members that should the pipeline go forward and the Commission has to review wetland permits, it is important to remain objective at this time so no-one can accuse them of pre-judgment.

Bob questioned the effect the pipeline blasting would have on the aquifers in New Ipswich. He suggested the Commission hire someone to do a report on the aquifers. Upon conclusion of the discussion, Matt made a motion to have Bob obtain a quote for doing a report on the aquifers. Dixie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Matt brought up the subject of having a solar operation installed at the landfill. A contractor would come in any install the panels and be in charge of the operation. There would be no cost to the Town. Matt added this is being done in several communities.

Gretchen introduced herself to the Commission. She is the only staff member at the New Hampshire River Council. She was hired in November and works part time. The Council administers grants and provides community awareness and education.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary