

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 11, 2017

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Lisa Oden, Jack Messe, David McTigue, Matt Oliveira, Karen Miller, Kleta Dudley, (SoRLAC Representative), Lori Rautiola

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

The minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting were reviewed. David made a motion to approve the minutes. Lisa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Lands: Bob reported the Commission has an invoice from Attorney Thomas Hanna in the amount of \$2,910.50. The invoice is for legal advice on handling easements on Town property. In the letter Mr. Hanna states his opinion that the Board of Selectmen has the authority to sign such conservation easement deeds without the necessity of obtaining the approval of the voters at a town meeting. The need for the legal opinion was suggested by the Monadnock conservancy in order to protect some land that is not owned by the Town. Matt made a motion to pay the invoice. Jack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Water Resources: The Commission conversed about the draft letter to residents that live near the old "Page Hill Dump Site" and developed some criteria for wells to be tested. The criteria will be added to the letter. Members agreed homes within a half mile radius from the old dump site would be possible candidates to have their wells tested depending on the well criteria that home owners have.

Bob displayed a map on the projector of the "Page Hill Dump Site". The map displayed which homes could potentially have impacts to their wells. Matt suggested to begin testing the surface water as soon as possible. Chem-Serve quoted \$2,748.00 for four tests. Lisa made a motion to pay the invoice of \$2,748.00 for the water tests. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bob noted the Commission has some software called "Arc GIS". It had been five years since the software has been updated. Bob spent \$400 to have the updates done. Jack made a motion to reimburse Bob \$400 for the software update. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Lisa gave an update on the Stream Buffer Ordinance and mentioned the Planning Board had removed the part on the livestock in the buffer. The members discussed the amendment to the ordinance and Bob suggested the Commission do a quarterly newsletter so residents can become more aware of best management practices. Karen added that would be helpful to point out the livestock buffer is not about being anti-livestock but being pro water.

Signs: David reported he found some signs online for about \$15, which the Commission could order and post on the New Ipswich Mountain property due to the OHRV's making trails on the land.

Upcoming Events: Bob mentioned Northeast Wilderness Trust is requesting \$25,000 from the Commission to help offset the fees of putting the Binney Hill property into an easement. The Commission will hold an executory easement on this property. Matt made a motion to move forward with a supporting donation of \$25,000 to the Northeast Wilderness Trust. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the current use funds. The Commission receives up to \$50,000 of the current use tax money each year. Bob stated the interest earned on this money throughout the year should be going to the Conservation Commission and the funds should be transferred to the Commission as soon as it comes in.

Matt made a motion to adjourn. Jack seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola