

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

July 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman; David McTigue; Karen Miller; Kleta Dudley, Mike Bara; Susan Mallett, Secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30

Reviewed meeting minutes from June meeting. Changes from “conservancy” to “The Monadnock Conservancy” to prevent any confusion. Bob made a MOTION to accept minutes with changes discussed, Karen SECONDED the MOTION, all were in favor.

At 7:35 the Page Hill property was discussed. Bob spoke with Jean Montagu., and she wants to be sure her vision is fulfilled. Bob asked if she wanted to sell it outright, this prevents future owners from doing something outside the vision for the property. The Monadnock Conservancy seems to be more interested in purchasing properties outright.

Bob noted that Piscataquog Land Conservancy, might be interested in other properties such as the Page Hill one.

Bob asked the Commission if Town should offer to pay for the survey, Mike believes she had it done already. Bob will try to get in touch with Jean.

At 7:42 Bob brought up Dixie Blease and Ed Rogers coming in to discuss Dixie purchasing some land and donating to the Town. She is currently expanding her property, with a lot line adjustment with Tridam property. Bob wants to make sure the Town isn't obligated to put a trail on this property. Bob will clarify with Dixie at the Planning meeting next Wednesday. Bob also asked if we should put an easement on it if we owned it out-right.

The conversation continued, and Bob asked the Commission what considerations there would be if we were to put a trail there. The concerns were parking, trail markers, penstock sign (to let hikers know what it is and the purpose of it), and liability. Karen feels the sign should be done by Historical Society, Bob feels Conservation Commission, Sue suggested Heritage Commission as well. Bob discussed the materials that Federal and State parks use. Bob will reach out to see what information they may have on the penstock.

At 7:59 Bob MOTIONED alternate members Mike Bara and Kleta Dudley be appointed as regular members for this meeting. Karen SECONDED, All were in agreement.

At 8:00 Prime wetland was the next topic up. Bob would like to have a drone flyover then send the video to a Wetland Scientist. He has noticed the surface is covered in vegetation, which makes Bob wonder if it's viable for Prime Wetlands.

The topic of dying or dry water bodies came up. One case in particular was a woman who mentioned they wanted to bring in thousands of gallons of water to refill the pond. Everyone felt that was a bad idea due to the potential to introduce invasive plants and animals. Bob will call the DES to see what they say about importing water, because they have strict rules on extraction.

At 8:05, the By-Laws were discussed, including Bob and Matt's change. They both feel that the 75/100% option that was discussed did not belong in here. The 75/100% will be case by case. The Commission

reviewed the changes suggested and considered new changes as well. Bob MOTIONED to accept the changes to the By-Laws, Karen SECONDED the MOTION, and all were in agreement.

At 8:25 Bob noted the Williams property inspections were stagnating. Karen thought it was going to be done later when the ticks and other bugs were not so prevalent. Bob said he would at least like to see the signage. Also, Mike left the wood and he and David will schedule a time to work together to get it done. Bob asked Mike if he had the paperwork for the wood still, Mike will check email as he thought he sent it, if not Bob will contact Belletetes to see if they can reproduce the invoice.

At 8:27, Bob noted he met with Jim Coffey and also Tim Fountain of CAI. Bob's concern was the Town of New Ipswich is a client of CAI, and as we don't have an IT department, he should be able to reach out for his changes as well as other departments reaching out for their changes. Everyone going through the Town Administrator would be difficult in his mind. Tim is putting together a contract for the layers Bob is requesting. Bob noted we may not use all of the layers, but also each layer used has queries.

At 8:30 Bob reminded the Commission members that the Landscape software subscription would be cancelled as it was overkill for what we need. Everyone is in favor of returning to paper forms.

At 8:35 Bob mentioned that some properties are visible from road, and questions the formality of monitoring and also the frequency. He noted there is a group called Trailwrights that does this kind of thing. Kleta suggested advertising on Town web site or something similar. Something like "IS anyone in town interested in helping with periodic trail work with the Conservation Commission. Please email out to ..." Leave the dangerous things like chainsaws to the Commission, and the simpler actions like picking up trash to the volunteers. Have a Commission member with a volunteer to guide them. Bob noted that it's a social thing as well as getting things done.

At 9:00 pm A MOTION to adjourn was made by Karen Miller, and SECONDED by Bob Boynton, All in attendance were in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Mallett