

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
September 14, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman; David McTigue; Karen Miller; Kleta Dudley, Susan Mallett, Secretary
Also attending was Ed Rogers, of Rogers Engineering Solutions, LLC

Guests: Dixie Blease, Ed Rogers, Matthew Moran, Sierra Moran, Jason C Bolduc

At 7:30 Bob opened the meeting.

Matthew and Sierra Moran:

Jason Bolduc of Meridian Land Services Inc. presented on behalf of Matthew and Sierra Moran of 50 Matson Road. He described the building project and where the wetlands were. Bob noted he would like to do a site visit.

- Email Jason with the date of the site visit at jcbolduc@meridianlandservices.com

Possible Land Donation (Dixie Blease):

Ed Rogers and Dixie Blease were in attendance to discuss the donation and concerns with the property. Bob asked about the bee hives, and it was confirmed they are on Dixie's property. A path would need to be cleared near the water to avoid disturbing the bee hives.

Parking was discussed next. There is about 150 feet on either side of the bridge to park. Bob feels it would be only 2 or 3 cars a month for the trail visitors. A parking easement was also suggested as well as signage to indicate trail parking. Bob felt it was an addressable item.

Of real concern was the Penstock. If it were private property, it could be posted "No Trespassing", but if public property, it can't be posted. There are 2 or 3 areas at least that are in need of a patch. Dixie suggested closing off one end. Ed noted it's been there since 1892 with minimal maintenance. He noted it's not exposed to salt and other conditions like a car would be so that would slow down the deterioration. Ed also said he was not sure patches would work, and suggested using flowable fill (aka flow fill) or putting a proper walkway across it. That way the historical aspect is restored but people are not walking on the penstock directly. Bob felt that would make it seasonal.

Bob went over the steps to proceed

- The Conservation Commission would deliberate at the next meeting in October
- Then have a public meeting (must post in the paper and online)
- Bob also wants to meet with the Selectmen before proceeding

Bob asked again about how the penstock would be decommissioned. Ed responded he is not sure, but feels like the flow fill would work. Bob would like to have it torch cut and lifted out with a helicopter.

Ed noted another property that just came up for sale that is adjoining this property and would bring the trail out to Turnpike Road. The asking price is \$140k, Bob expressed interest and that the Conservation Commission has the money. The property is 8 acres, Ed feels it's possibly buildable so it could be snapped up. Bob wondered if the Highway Dept. would maintain this new lot.

Bob mentioned possibly putting up a kiosk. Bob called John Poltrack, Ed called John Rosenfeld.

Bob noted that when we get land we put into a third party conservation management. He feels they might not appreciate the history of the penstock as the Conservation Commission has. Someone asked Bob about protecting the river, the river is already protected by the shoreline protection act. He also noted that an abutter across the river was concerned about the parking. Bob noted a posting about trail maintenance of Jeff's trail, and if there is a trail on the property the Conservation Commission would need to maintain the trail. Dixie mentioned that she paid someone to maintain the trail so she could have it done by end of September. There is an issue with Bittersweet vine overtaking the field.

Bob reiterated the plan going forward was for Bob to meet with the Selectmen for their blessing, and John Poltrack to go see the property, then meet with Dixie and hold the public meeting.

Minutes review and approval:

The commission reviewed the minutes.

Bob made a motion to appoint Kleta as alternate member for this meeting, Karen seconded, and all were in approval.

Kleta made a motion to accept the July 13th minutes, Karen seconded, and all were in approval.

Karen made a motion to accept the August 10th minutes, Kleta seconded, and all were in approval.

Commission Appointments:

Bob discussed appointments and the process of renewals.

David nominated Bob for a 2 year term

Karen nominated David for a 2 year term

Kleta nominated Karen for a 3 year term

Susan nominated Kleta for a 1 year term

Karen nominated Susan for a 1 year term

Bob nominated Matt for a 3 year term

Kleta nominated Mike for a 1 year term

All were in favor of these nominations.

Next step is to send letter to the Board of Selectmen. Then each member goes to the Town Clerk for swearing in. Karen asked if the Town Clerk would come in to do the swearing in at a meeting. Bob noted it could be Town Clerk, Moderator, Board of Selectmen or the Administrator that does the swearing in.

CAI Payment:

Bob has a bill for about \$870 for contract work for CAI. Bob is asking for pre-authorization to pay up to \$1,500 per month so that he doesn't need to wait for each meeting to vote on it. This would allow the bill to be paid, even if there isn't a quorum on any month.

Going forward each department would pay for the information they want. DPW would pay for information relating to culverts for instance.

Bob made a motion to permit the commission to pay up to \$1,500.00 per month to CAI going forward. Kleta seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Prime wetlands:

Bob sent the parcel number to the wetland scientist and has not heard back yet. This will cost about \$500

Monitoring Forms:

Bob mentioned that we need to create an updated form to track land monitoring now that we don't have the software. Plan is that the Land Admin would collect them at each meeting and copy to an electronic folder and put paper forms in binders for each property. Bob suggested creating forms using Adobe Acrobat.

Action Item:

Let the Commission know when the Board of Selectmen accepts the appointments, so they know when to come in for swearing in.

At 8:50pm Bob motioned to adjourn, Kleta seconded, and all were in approval.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Mallett