

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JULY 13, 2016

PRESENT: Bob Boynton-Chairman, David McTigue, Karen Miller, Lisa Oden, Jack Messe, Lori Rautiola

ABSENT: Matt Oliveria

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

The Commission reviewed an invoice from the New England Forestry Foundation for expenses related to conveyance of the conservation easement in the amount of \$8,690.00. Lisa made a motion to pay the invoice. Karen seconded and it passed unanimously.

The minutes of the June 8, 2016 meeting were reviewed and the following corrections made: change the date from June 6th to June 8th. In the fifth paragraph, fourth sentence should read..." Karen mentioned when she questioned the Planning Board..." The sixth paragraph under New Business, third sentence take out Karen's name and replace with Matt. Bob made a motion to approve the June 8, 2016 minutes as amended. Jack seconded and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Trails: Trail maps were discussed. The Commission pondered if the maps were still needed as technology has replaced many of the paper maps. Lisa suggested having a pamphlet with directions on "how to" access the maps on the GIS glue interactive maps.

Signs: Bob asked what the status was of the Williams Property trailhead sign. David noted it was ready to be hung. Bob suggested contacting Peter Goewey to have the hole dug for this sign.

Communications: Bob questioned if all of the Town Conservation lands should be protected by a third party easement. For example: If there is a property being encroached, this is a violation which means this would be the Town's liability and could end up costing the Commission money. It was discussed that it would be a case by case scenario because of each parcel's different size and access to the property. Karen noted listing the properties by criteria giving a reference point as to which properties to protect first. Bob added there is usually a basic fee for 30-300 acres to have it protected.

Lisa questioned how many properties are not being protected. Bob responded there are two properties not being protected, Tophet Swamp (Mansfield Meadows) and the Williston Property. Bob added Mansfield Meadows is in the middle of Tophet Swamp.

Bob and Lisa reported on a site visit to 445 Turnpike Road. Lisa noted a complaint was filed that there may have been a violation to the stream buffer ordinance. The area had been filled in with gravel. The edge of the gravel measured about 22 feet from the high water line of the brook. Based upon the wetlands ordinance the distance is restricted to be no closer than 25 feet. It appeared that proper measures had been undertaken with the installation of silt fencing to mitigate erosion to the brook. It

was requested that at one area the fill be graded away from the brook to create a straight line of fill and that the sloped areas be stabilized with vegetation to avoid any future erosion.

The Commission conversed about having the Building Inspector do inspections on properties prior to the driveway permit or building permit being issued. Bob noted the stream buffer ordinance should be on the building permit and asked Lisa to mention this when she meets with the Planning Board. It was also mentioned to meet with the Building inspector to discuss further.

Water Resources: Bob gave Karen and David some information regarding the Ground Water Protection Ordinance from the State to help with the criteria when drafting the Ordinance. He explained these are what the State requires for minimum protection but you can add to this and make it stronger. He noted there are four different classes of ground water. The Ground Water Protection Ordinance must be part of the site plan review. He questioned who is monitoring the properties, and that having performance standards and restrictions are good for this purpose.

Bob distributed a map of public wellheads in town. These water supplies should be noted in the Ground Water Protection Ordinance. He noted some of the aquifers on the map are shared by surrounding towns and it would be a good idea to check with other towns to see what they have in place for a ground water protection ordinance. Another area of concern to consider when drafting the ordinance would be large water withdrawals.

Bob asked for thoughts on tonight's discussions and Jack mentioned with regard to the Building Inspector, it would be nice for the Town to have a regional person come out and inspect some of the environmental aspects. Bob replied it is the Building Inspector's responsibility to measure the setbacks according to building code and Jack agreed but added he should not have to know how to determine what a wetland is. Bob also noted the Assessors need to send someone out to monitor the current use lands as people are reporting they have wetlands on their property when it may not necessarily be wetlands. Bob added another concern when drafting these ordinances is to make sure and determine whose responsibility it will be to monitor them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola, Secretary

