

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

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

ABSENT: Matt Oliveria, Lisa Oden

PUBLIC: Michael Bara

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

The minutes of the August 9, 2017 meeting were reviewed. David made a motion to approve the minutes. Karen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Lands:** Members discussed the signage for Conservation Lands. David reported 4-5 signs are made and ready to be hung.

Mansfield Meadow was discussed. Bob noted it is not protected adding he would like to put it on the list of land which is not protected. The land is costing the Commission roughly \$35,000 and will cost another \$12,000 to put an easement on it. Members agreed the land is not in danger or in need of protection.

Members continued last month's discussion of potential land for protection. Bob noted Jack brought forth a good piece of land at last month's meeting that would be valuable to protect. Bob commented in regards to finding potential land to protect he would give a demonstration with the GIS Layers in order to help the Commissioners find quality land to protect. He added using technology to protect the land is very helpful.

Bob reported Lisa has done some research with the mapping of farmlands in the State of NH in New Ipswich, adding this is a good quality of land to protect. Farmland, habitat, streams and all co-occurrences means the property is more valuable to protect.

Bob gave a tutorial using GIS Glue interactive maps. He explained how to use the tools on the site and how helpful they are to see different terrains on the maps. He also demonstrated how to use the GPS which shows latitude and longitude. The maps displayed the developed areas in Town and how much the Town of New Ipswich has grown over the course of the years. Much of the land was shown to be developed and by looking at the current map there were only about 8-10 parcels in Town that could potentially be protected. Bob stated this is a useful tool for the Commission to find land to protect.

The Green Crow Property was discussed. Members were asked what their thoughts were on opening up Binney Hill Road in order to access and make a parking area for people. Bob noted it would be helpful for people to have access to the Wapack but it may be expensive to make the road passable for cars. Karen shared she had gone to the "creating sustainable recreation trails" informative session at the Shieling Forest and came back with some fun resources for trails and also gained a different perspective. She added it was very informative.

The Goralski Property was mentioned and Bob stated he would like to find out if the property is still for sale.

**Communications:**

**Water Resources:** Bob noted ChemServe will be scheduling appointments for the well tests by the Old Page Hill Dump site soon if they have not done so already, and the Commission will go over the results together.

**Upcoming Events:** Bob stated the Commission will be donating \$25,000 to Green Crow to help with the cost for protection. Kleta suggested the Commission do some fund raising to help cover the cost of purchasing/protecting certain lands that people in town value in order to be able to hunt, fish, kayak and make use of the property. The Commission's annual meeting will be October 10, 2017. Bob noted we could use more members and alternate member and asked Mr. Bara if he would be interested. Mr. Bara responded he would be interested.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola, Secretary