

MEETING MINUTES  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING  
OCTOBER 14, 2015

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Dixie Blease, David McTigue, Jack Messe, Matt Oliveira, Joanne Meshna, Lori Rautiola, Kleta Dudley (SoRLAC Representative)

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

Dixie made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2015 meeting. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Lands:** The members discussed Claddagh Hill Farm. Bob noted that one third of the property is already protected. The Conservation Commission has some concerns with giving money for a property owned by a corporation. It is not specific what the money will be used for. Dixie liked the project and asked if the Conservation Commission could donate money for only certain things such as putting the money in the conservation easement. Bob noted an organization such as this is going to use the Agricultural Land Easement Program and have to match the funds which are estimated to be \$250,000. David liked the project as well, but was concerned with what happens if the project does not work down the road. Bob noted an easement is permanent. Jack liked the project as well, but the success of the conservation of the land depends on the success of human endeavor, and thought it "muddies the water a bit". Grace Land Trust asked for a pledge by October 24. Members agreed they like the project but at this time they cannot make a pledge, possibly in the future.

Bob stated the paperwork for the Rice/Tuttle Property is being drawn up and the Conservation Commission should have all 175 acres under easement within six months.

**Old Business:**

Karen Miller stated she, Lisa and Dixie had put together a letter to FERC with their concerns regarding the pipeline. (letter was distributed) Dixie noted there is no record of the discussion of the letter in the minutes. Joanne stated the minutes for the September 9, 2015 meeting were approved. Dixie made a motion to amend the September 9, 2015 minutes and add Lisa Oden, Karen Miller and she made an agreement to write a letter to FERC with their concerns. After reading the letter Bob explained that noise, vibration, and light pollution are not in the purview of the Conservation Commission but would be for the Planning Board. Bob stated he did not agree with everything in the letter and the Conservation Commission needs to agree on all comments before it goes out. The Commission decided they would all submit their comments by Thursday for Bob to review. The deadline for letters to FERC is Friday October 16, 2015.

**Water Resources:** David commented there is nothing new to report regarding the stream buffer ordinance. Bob suggested allocating a time at one of our meetings to work on it.

With regard to Nussdorfer Nature Area, David noted the plexiglass needs to be replaced and he would go ahead and fix it. The Commission will pay for the cost of the plexiglass.

**New Business:** Bob suggested a public statement be drawn up on the potential impact on the aquifers from the pipeline and compressor station. David will write one up with Matt's help.

The new logo Brenna completed was discussed. Bob made a motion to pay her five hundred dollars for services rendered. Dixie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board discussed mitigation and Bob stated the Commission recommends projects for mitigation. If there is any mitigation, a wetland scientist would need to be hired and the value of wetlands determined. Bob added it will be streams and wetlands that may be impacted. Dixie questioned if Kinder Morgan will have an exact route determined. Bob stated Kinder Morgan will not know what lands of ours will be impacted. He has a list of the streams and wetlands that potentially could be impacted. Bob explained the process is to apply for a wetlands permit, review by Conservation Commission, and determination if the impact can be avoided. The wetland scientist determines the value of the wetland and compares it to the state ratios, which for a wetland is 10 to 1. For example, if the wetland is valued at \$80,000 for one acre, the mitigation would be 10 acres X \$80,000 an acre. Dixie questioned where the money would go. If there are no projects to be done in town, the money goes into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund. (ARM) The money deposited in the fund must be used within three years of the deposit. During that three year period, the Town has the right to submit an application to utilize some of the funds in a mitigation project. DES also has the right to use the money elsewhere if the Town has no mitigation projects.

There are 9 properties that have wetlands that could be impacted by the pipeline. There is a 21 acre parcel owned by Eversource. Out of those nine properties, two of them are less than 10,000 square feet, so would not qualify for mitigation. That brings the acreage down to about 14 acres.

Bob stated Kinder Morgan is scheduled to come in and meet with the Commission next month to discuss mitigation. They want to know what the Town has for projects. Dixie questioned if we should have had the land surveyed to determine what will become a project. Bob replied the permitting process needs to be followed. Bob stated that we can give Kinder Morgan a list of projects for mitigation. He also stated it would be ideal to say we do not want any mitigation because we do not want the pipeline, but when you have a stream going across the right of way, there is no way around it; the stream will be impacted. One question for Kinder Morgan is what is the process for crossing a stream. Matt stated the bottom line is monetary mitigation is less preferable for us and we can figure out projects for the Commission. This meeting is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup>.

The 2016 budget was discussed. Bob recommended and the members agreed to cut the budget by \$100.

The Commission revisited the Claddagh Farm project and decided they would need more time to make a decision. Bob made a motion to not make a pledge at this time. Dixie seconded the motion and suggested a letter be sent to the Ayer Farm stating we hope their project succeeds, but are not in a position right now to make a pledge. The Board agreed and it passed unanimously.

Annual elections were held. Dixie stated that she will not be serving another term and suggested Lisa Oden as a board member to fill her vacancy. Bob nominated Lori Rautiola as an Alternate. Dixie seconded and

it passed unanimously. Bob nominated Joanne Meshna as an Alternate. Dixie seconded and it passed unanimously. Matt Oliveira nominated Bob Boynton as Chairman. Jack seconded and it passed unanimously. Bob nominated David McTigue as Vice Chairman. Dixie seconded and it passed unanimously. Bob nominated Lori Rautiola as Secretary. Dixie seconded and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola, Secretary