



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

Jan. 8, 2020

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

In Attendance

- Barbara DeVore
- Bob Dillberger
- Anna Faiello
- Liz Fletcher
- Bob Larochelle
- Lundy Lewis
- Matt Robinson-Liu

Barbara moved we accept December 2019 minutes as amended. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously.

Also attending was Chuck Andersen who might be interested in volunteering as a CC member. *Later...* At the end of the meeting, Chuck said he'd like to become a member. Bob L. will draft a letter in this regard to the BOS. It was noted that we currently have no room for additional full members, but Ann's new job keeps her away from town quite a bit, so perhaps she'll agree to switch to being an alternate.

Liz moved we pay **NH Association of Conservation Commission \$250.00** for our annual dues with money coming from the General Fund. Bob L seconded. Passed unanimously.

We discussed reimbursement from the Forestry Committee for the Valentine gift expenses that came to \$4,072 (\$1,572 for title search & deed, plus \$2,500 for appraisal). A warrant article is needed for the Committee to access its funds. Also, the Forestry Committee has agreed to cover the cost of the new quarry access road bridge which will be useful for forestry purposes as well as emergency access. Contractor Bentley Management has quoted \$10,050 for this job, which is planned for this year. This amount can be added to the Forestry Committee warrant article, for a total of \$14,122. Thank you, Forestry Committee!

Regarding the new bridge on the quarry access road, Liz requested a NHB report which shows no rare/endangered species. That fact, coupled with the small area affected, will allow us to seek a "trails notification" wetlands permit from DES. Liz thinks DES will require that a properly engineered plan be submitted with the application, so we'll need to hire an engineering firm for that purpose. Lundy suggested the culvert vendor (Lamarre) might offer this service. He'll contact them to ask. We decided to wait to hear the answer before contacting other contractors.

Bob L. reports that Bill Downs is now accepting bids for the planned logging operation on B-17-1 (Spaulding Pond Conservation Land). He hopes to show the site to at least four bidders this month.

Reviewed some possible questions to include in the Master Plan survey being developed by the Planning Board. Based on tonight's discussion, Liz will draft a set of questions for us to review.

Piscataquog Land Conservancy has asked us to consider a donation of \$80,000 to the Nissitissit Headwaters Project (parcel B-4-2) in exchange for which the Town will receive executory interest in the property. Subtracted from that amount will be the money we spent on the project when we were in charge of it, leaving a balance of \$75,900. A review of our funds shows we have enough money to cover this expense with a sufficient cushion remaining. State law requires BOS approval for a transaction of this kind. Therefore, Liz proposed that we ask the Selectmen to let us spend \$75,900 to acquire executory interest in parcel B-4-2. Bob L seconded. All voted in the affirmative, with Barbara recusing herself. To ensure we understand the implications of this request, Bob D. will ask PLC for an explicit description of "executory interest."

Bob L. reports we've been contacted (through Kathy Wile) by a logger seeking permission to use the Mason Rail Trail for access to log parcel A-4. After brief discussion, we agreed this is not an appropriate use of the Trail. Bob D. moved we deny permission to use the Mason Rail Trail to access this or any other parcel for private logging. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously.

Bob L. reported on a conversation with Paula Bellemore at LCHIP regarding the Fifield easement. A response to our response to their complaint letter of last year is still forthcoming. Regarding annual monitoring, Paula would like us to work with them to develop a list of monitoring activities that match LCHIP's priorities. We now know they care less about boundary monitoring than about what happens on the interior, including structures. Bob D. will make a first attempt at extracting from the easement document a list of conditions that must be monitored.

Barbara reports that ROST is still planning to host a presentation in Milford on Jan. 16 at 7 PM to present a technique for keeping track of town conservation properties. Sounds worth attending.

Barbara reports we no longer need to pay for 2 hours of police time for drug take-back day as previously planned. The Police Dept. will be covering the cost.

Bob L. reports that the RR Trail gate at Scripps Ln. has not been replaced. We'll ask Amos White to do that when he's working on the quarry access road bridge.

Bob D. proposed that we add a list of action items to our minutes to help us keep track of what needs to be done. After discussion, all agreed.

Action Items

See relevant minutes for more information about these items.

<i>Who</i>	<i>Added</i>	<i>Finished</i>	<i>Item</i>
Bob D.	Jan 2020		Ask PLC for details about "executory interest".
Liz	Jan 2020		Draft set of Master Plan survey questions.
Bob D.	Jan 2020		Draft checklist of conditions to monitor for Fifield easement.
Bob L.	Jan 2020		Draft letter of recommendation to BOS for Chuck A. appointment.
Lundy	Jan 2020		Ask Lamarre if they can do a site plan for the quarry access road bridge.