

Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
February 15, 2022 6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Schagen, Chairman; Guenter Hubert, Lawrence Schissel, Linda Dennis, Ken Dennis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry Connell, BOS Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Christina Donovan, Planning and Zoning Administrator

VIDEOGRAPHER: NCTV

GUESTS: via zoom: Kevin J. Ryan, Ph.D., CWS; and Sarah Large, FB Environmental Associates

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Schagen called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm followed by a roll call of the Commissioners in attendance and the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW: Postpone Treasurer's Report to March 15, 2023 meeting (Donovan) Review Warrant Article for Monday deadline (Donovan)

MINUTES: December 14, 2022

December 14, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Hubert; *the Commissioners approved the minutes of December 14, 2022 with the correction: Page 5 Under Yeoman's Property add Dr. Schissel to those present. The motion passed 6-0-0.* In discussion the Commission was told the correction had been done. The most current minutes had not been emailed to the Board members. Ms. Donovan will email the members of the Conservation Commission the updated minutes sent to her and the Board in December 2022.

(For full presentation go to: www.nctv-nh.org)

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Kevin J. Ryan of FB Environmental Associates

Chairman Schagen addressed Mr. Kevin J. Ryan of FB Environmental Associates and welcomed him to the Conservation Commission meeting. Chairman Schagen explained to the Commissioners and Mr. Ryan that he had gotten a brochure about his company at the NH Association of Conservation Commissions annual workshops in Concord, NH. He had invited Mr. Ryan to speak to the Commission on Natural Resource Inventories (NRI), the initial building blocks for towns creating one and also what cost estimates were for basic and detailed ones.

Mr. Ryan spoke to the Commission and gave an overview of his company. He then gave basic and vague facts about an NRI.

- ❖ A company could do a NRI for a private or public entity
- ❖ He and associate Sarah Large (wetlands scientist) stated that wetlands were important to have noted and mapped in a NRI
- ❖ Field work was more expensive than data gotten from sources available on the internet
- ❖ Their NRI work was done in the wintertime; field work in the spring, summer and fall
- ❖ A timeframe for a NRI between compiling information and completing reports would require more than 6 months.
- ❖ NRIs were not just for Conservation Commissions, but were important for Town Planning and Zoning Boards as well
- ❖ The biggest part of a NRI was the mapping
- ❖ There are "layers" to a NRI
- ❖ The Commission needed to make a list of priorities for their proposed NRI
- ❖ Mr. Ryan could not give estimates or items for building blocks, it was an open forum and there were competitors that might undercut them in bidding

Dr. Schissel asked what the three or four top priorities should be for a beginning NRI. He was told mapping. There were several open sites to get the information for a NRI.

Dr. Schissel again asked what the top priorities should be for a barebones NRI. He was told wetlands/water resources maps. Some maps for wetlands have errors of omissions (from open sources). Field work is necessary.

Dr. Schissel asked in a 'budget level' NRI; what should be included? He was told no field work should be done for Town level, it is not economical.

There was a brief discussion on NRIs and the parts that the FB Environmental Associates have done. Mr. Ryan was then asked, not for monetary information but for what should be included in a 'bare bones' NRI. He stated:

1. Wildlife
2. Migration corridors
3. Wetlands

There was no answer about adding a la carte items. Ms. Large stated that NRIs could be done in phases to coincide with the Town's fiscal years. They again stressed the importance of maps and complete reports. If they were hired they would provide a hard copy as well as a digital copy to the Commission/Town.

The Commissioners had no further questions. Chairman Schagen thanked Mr. Ryan and Ms. Large for attending the meeting (via zoom). The guest speakers left at 7:10 pm.

NEW BUSINESS: Warrant Article

The Commissioners reviewed the tentative warrant article in their packets. It had wording approved by Finance Director Brown. Mr. Connell was not in attendance to consult on the Warrant Article. After a brief discussion, Dr. Schissel made a motion *to approve the Warrant Article to the Town with the sum of \$16,000.00 added*. It was seconded by Mr. Dennis. In discussion there was a request to rephrase the wording. Mr. Dennis withdrew his second, Dr. Schissel withdrew his motion. The recording secretary was asked to read back the rephrased Article. She complied with the request. The new motion read:

Dr. Schissel made a motion: *Article 1. to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of 16 Thousand (\$) dollars to be transferred to the Conservation Commission Treasury for the purpose of creating a Natural Resource Inventory for the Town of Newport for the purpose of updating the required 10 year Master Plan (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee)*. Mr. Dennis seconded the motion. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Letter to Barton Property Abutters

The Board reviewed the letter to the property abutters. There were some typographical errors to be corrected (line one-add '**am writing**', courtesy should be courtesy; Line 5 witness should be witnessed; Line 6 addition should be: "Including". Ms. Donovan was asked to send the letter to abutters on Swan Street and to cc the Conservation Commissioners and the Selectboard.

NRI Funding Information

Newport Times Article

Dr. Schissel wrote and submitted an article to the Newport Times. He distributed copies to the Commissioners present.

Mr. Hubert and the Commissioners discussed being involved in the Green Up Day on April 30, 2023.

Wetlands and elderly housing development on Route 10

Ms. Donovan informed the Conservation Commission that the developer (Avanru) has been told they will have to subdivide their lot in order to avoid wetlands on the lot property.

Corbin Road Tree Fund

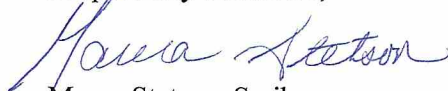
Mr. Hubert explained the financial information he has found that pertains to the Conservation Commission. He will continue to research and see if they have additional funds they are not aware of.

ADMINISTRATION:

The Conservation Commissioners asked about the progress of the No Dumping Signs for entrances to the Town Forest. Ms. Donovan said she had not heard from Todd Cartier. She will contact Craig Sartwell about getting them.

On a motion by Mr. Hubert, seconded by Dr. Schissel; *the Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

Approved: March 15, 2023

The next Conservation Commission Meeting will be held on March 15, 2023 in the BOS room