

**Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
Minutes of September 19, 2017
6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stanley Hannum, Co-Chairman; Bruce Burroughs, Co-Chairman; Linda Dennis, Clifford Richer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kristen Boffo

GUEST SPEAKER: Laura French, Forester; Meadowsend Timberlands Limited

VIDEOGRAPHER: NCTV

PRESENT FROM THE COMMUNITY: Ken Dennis

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Burroughs called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW: accepted as presented.

MINUTES: August 15, 2017

Chairman Burroughs tabled the minutes to the October 17, 2017 Conservation Commission meeting.

ADMINISTRATION: none

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Meadowsend Timberlands Limited (MTL) update on forestry-Laura French

Ms. Laura French addressed the Conservation Commission members and presented them with a document with recommendations for conservation land management in Newport. Chairman Burroughs requested that Ms. Magnuson, Mrs. Stetson and Mrs. Dennis be sent digital copies of the 131 page document.

Continuing, Ms. French stated that she would focus her September 19, 2017 presentation on the Gilman Pond Plan. Using a posted map of Gilman Pond and its conservation lands, Ms. French explained MTL's recommendations for the best land management practice (for full presentation see online vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/channels/newportconservationcomm>).

She explained the basic management recommendations which encompassed the Newport Commission's main objectives:

- Protect Water quality
- Create resilient forest health
- Hunting and fishing
- Active management

Not priority:

Income

Ms. French reviewed the Legal Basal Area Law and the land management required in various locations around the pond.

Using the posted map, she explained the viparium buffer makeup of sections #1-#7 around the pond and the areas in need of attention for good land management. The MTL report gave recommendations of high priority, medium priority and low priority areas.

#1 buffer zone. Ms. French stated that stand #1 needed the least management (Low Priority). It did need thinning to promote healthy tree growth.

#2 buffer zone. Low Priority. Minimum management. The zone was all hemlock hardwood and was associated with all drainage and all low wet areas on the property. It was the largest stand on the property (approximately 1/3 of total property size).

#3 buffer zone. Management not specified in presentation.

#4 buffer zone had been cut in 1985 for timber. It currently had mature aspen and white birch growth. MTL recommended light thinning.

#5 buffer zone was located in 4-5 different sections. High Priority. The area had been planted with red pine in the 1940's and has never been thinned. The MTL recommended clear cutting. Ms. French explained how it would be done. The area had red pine growth and red pine scale disease was coming north to the Newport area; thus it was a priority to cut the trees before they became diseased.

Mr. Hannum asked if all 5 sections were recommended to be cut at the same time. Ms. French said yes.

Mrs. Dennis asked when MTL suggested Newport cut the trees. Ms. French stated in the winter; to protect the quality of the water.

Mrs. Dennis then asked what successional meant. Ms. French explained successional cutting.

#6 buffer zone (on the western side of the Pond) was a high priority area for modified shelter wood cutting. Ms. French explained the process and the philosophy.

#7 buffer zone (on the eastern side of the Pond) was recommended as a reserve area.

Mrs. Dennis stated that #6 was in a limited lake buffer zone. There was a general discussion on the area the zone was located. It was not in the no harvest buffer. Ms. French explained the good land management practice in buffer zone #6. Mrs. Dennis said that the Water Department might challenge the Conservation Commission cutting in that area.

Ms. French told Mrs. Dennis and the Commission members they could do another walking tour with Water Department representatives (during the day) to explain their (MTL) suggested recommendations for forest management. She asked if the Commission would like a finalized management plan to present to the Water Department during any discussions. Co-Chairman Hannum stated the Draft they had would suffice.

There was a lengthy discussion on the Plan and the Gilman Pond conservation land. Commission members complimented and thanked Ms. French on the written plan she had submitted.

Chairman Burroughs and Commission members thanked Ms. French for her presentation.

Financial Statement for Conservation Commission

Chairman Burroughs had not received a financial statement from Finance Director Brown.

Markers in Town Forest

Markers in Town Forest had not been put up yet. The posts for Conservation markers in the Town Forest had not arrived. After a general discussion on their proposed placement, the agenda item was tabled to the October 17, 2017 meeting.

Update from Town Manager

Chairman Burroughs stated that per the decision of the Conservation Commission members at the August 15, 2017 meeting; all information and correspondence concerning the infringements on the Barton Lot had been explained and given to Town Manager Rieseberg to resolve. Chairman Burroughs stated he had recently asked the Town Manager about any progress; he was told the Conservation (Barton land) project was on Rieseberg's "to do" list.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of potential new easements

The Commission members held a brief discussion on potential new easements to be acquired by the Town for the Conservation Commission. Among the properties discussed were:

- ❖ Elephant Rock
- ❖ Balancing Rock
- ❖ Coit Mountain
- ❖ Pinnacle Rock (Town already has)
- ❖ Island in Sugar River-Chandler Mills

Schedule annual monitoring of the Barton, Yeoman's and Wells properties

After a short discussion, the following were assigned:

- Barton-Mr. Hannum
- Wells- Mr. Richer
- Yeomans-Mr. Richer and Mrs. Dennis

Co-Chairman Hannum reviewed the procedure for monitoring and recording information for Commission members.

On a motion by Mr. Hannum, seconded by Mr. Richer; ***the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson
Scribe

The next regular meeting of the Conservation Commission will be on October 17, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the BOS room.

Approved: October 17, 2017