

Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
September 28, 2022 6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry Connell, Chairman and BOS Representative; Ken Dennis

STAFF PRESENT: Christina Donovan, Planning and Zoning Administrator

VIDEOGRAPHER: none

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Schagen called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm followed by a roll call of the Commissioners and in attendance the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW: ADD: Private property bisecting onto Johnson easement; ADD: Trees on Corbin Road (Schissel)

MINUTES: August 17, 2022

August 17, 2022

On a motion by Dr. Schissel, seconded by Mr. Hubert; *the Commission approved the minutes of August 17, 2022 as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Schagen abstained).*

BUSINESS:

Rules of Procedure vote and signature

The Commissioners discussed the copy of the Rules of Procedure (ROP). Vice Chairman Schagen addressed the Commissioners and gave proposals for additional changes:

ARTICLE IV: line 4, CHANGE our to Newport's

ARTICLE VI: C. Attendance. Keep sentence, Return to the text in the April 17, 2022 Draft Rules of Procedure starting with "if member agrees..."

ARTICLE IX: A. Regular meetings. Third line, last word in sentence. Board should read Commission.

ARTICLE IX: F. Real Property Hearings. Omit last line: "Such requests.....Town Meeting".

The Commission concurred to table any action on the Rules of Procedure to the October 19, 2022 meeting.

NRI:

The Commissioners and Ms. Donovan held a lengthy discussion on money for a Newport NRI. Included in their discussion was: where they would get money to complete it, grants to apply for, aspects to focus on. Dr. Schissel stated that when ready, he would propose a motion for a Warrant Article to request \$12,000 for a NRI; with unexpended funds to go to the General Fund. Vice Chairman Schagen stated that the Conservation Commission Fund needs to be looked into. The Commissioners need to know if the fund's money is for the purchase of conservation lands and easements (only). Ms. Donovan will look for paperwork defining the use of the fund. There was additional discussion on the finances of the Conservation Commission as stated in financial statements from the Town Report and Finance Director Brown. Additional information will be requested on missing funds.

Master Plan

There was a short discussion on the survey being done by the Planning Board for the Master Plan. The page with Natural Resources was shown to the Commissioners (Planning Board has said that the section is the purview of the Conservation Commission). There will be additional discussion on the Master Plan at future meetings.

Monitoring of Barton, Yeomans, Wells and Johnson properties

Vice Chairman Schagen informed the members present that Ms. Charlotte Harding, Stewardship Specialist; of the Land Conservation District Stewardship Program will be in Newport on October 25th (October 26th rain date) to monitor all conservation properties. Commissioners are welcome to attend the monitoring.

Dr. Schissel report on Mr. Lionel Chute and NRI

Dr. Schissel stated he had been given a tutorial on how to use NH GRANIT view (www.granit.unh.edu/) by Mr. Lionel Chute. He explained the website and what can be learned from it. Dr. Schissel was unable to access the BOS room Wi-Fi to give a tutorial to the Commissioners on the big screen. It will be postponed to a future meeting. Topics for the NRI to focus on were discussed. Currently, invasive species and wetlands will be focused on. There will be more discussions at future meetings. Mr. Dode Gladder was named as a resource for the Commission and NRI.

Public Relations-Community Outreach

There was a discussion on upcoming Conservation educational meetings, work sessions and courses. Dr. Schissel told the Commission he would be attending a 40 hour Wetlands Delineation Training at Vermont Tech. He and Vice Chairman Schagen would like to go to the NH Association of Conservation Commission (NHACC) workshop on Saturday, November 5, 2022. Admission for the annual meeting and workshop is \$60.00/person. Ms. Donovan stated that the Commission could charge their costs to the TOPAZ budget. Dr. Schissel made a motion *that the Planning and Zoning Budget will cover the tuitions, dues and fees for all the Commission members*. It was seconded by Mrs. Dennis. *The motion passed 4-0-0.*

Having student volunteers was discussed. In discussion, the Commissioners were told to contact the high school guidance office for the name of the Volunteer Coordinator at the CTE office. The coordinator will be able to assist the Commission in acquiring volunteers for projects. The different mediums for public relations were discussed. The Commission was made aware of a grant that the school had received for work on the boardwalk. Additional information will be sent to them concerning the grant. The Commissioners discussed the restrictions on the use of the Town Forest. The existing culture needs to be looked at and possibly changed. Dr. Schissel will contact Rec Director Lovely and potentially have him attend a Conservation Commission meeting for an update on the Town Forest.

Warrant Article and Operating Budget for budget season and Town voting

The Commission discussed writing a Warrant Article and line item for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. More discussion will be held in future meetings. Vice Chairman Schagen and Dr. Schissel asked that Warrant Article and Operating Budget put on the October 19, 2022 agenda.

Dates of Future Meetings

The meetings for the rest of 2022 were scheduled. Mrs. Dennis made a motion *to change the December Conservation Commission meeting to December 14, 2022*. It was seconded by Dr. Schissel. *The motion passed 4-0-0.*

October 19, 2022

November 16, 2022

December 14, 2022

Newport Ordinance


It lists properties for protection in the Conservation District. Vice Chairman Schagen stated he did not believe any entity was monitoring the parcels of land. There was a discussion on the properties.

Conservation Commission Money

The Conservation Commission held a lengthy discussion on how much money is made by the Town by selling natural resources. The process to get some of the money for the Conservation Commission was discussed. Ms. Donovan will look into how other towns/commissions acquire money for their operating budgets.

On a motion by Mr., seconded by Mrs. Dennis; *the Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson, Scribe

Approved: October 19, 2022

The next Conservation Commission Meeting will be held on October 19, 2022.