

**Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
Minutes of February 20, 2018
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, Ken Dennis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kristen Boffo, Clifford Richer

VIDEOGRAPHER: NCTV

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: January 16, 2018

Minutes of January 16, 2018

On a motion by Mrs. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Dennis; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of January 16, 2018 as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

ADMINISTRATION: none

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Update on monitoring of the Yeoman Property (Linda & Cliff)

See below.

Update on monitoring of the Wells Property (Linda & Cliff)

After a short discussion, the following information was given: Mrs. Dennis and Mr. Richer had completed the monitoring of the Yeoman and Wells Property. The reports had not yet been electronically filed and sent into the state. In March 2018, Mrs. Dennis would work with Ms. Magnuson and send the information that had been collected to the state.

Update on monitoring Barton Property (Stan)

The completed monitoring report on the Barton Property would be sent electronically by Mrs. Dennis when she sent the Yeoman and Wells reports.

Forestry Management Plan

Chairman Burroughs stated they had a Forest Management Plan of the Town Forest and the Maple Street properties. He had not been able to meet with Town Manager Rieseberg about some issues that have come up with the Gilman Pond Plan and the Maple Street Plan. He explained that after the completion of the Forestry Management Plan of the Gilman Pond property he found out that the property was controlled by the Newport Water Department, not the Newport Conservation Commission. The Commission had paid for a professional management plan for the Gilman Pond property. They would not be able to use it.

Ms. Magnuson was acknowledged. She explained to the Commission that the Conservation Commission was an advisory board to the Town. Their advice as a group was very important and should weigh in to

any decisions made by the Town. There was a discussion among the members on the Conservation Commission's responsibilities, its role and the lands in Town it controlled.

Commissioners and Ms. Magnuson also discussed a potential Warrant Article on the Conservation Commission's control of Town land that could go before the voters at a Town Meeting. Ms. Magnuson addressed the Commission and gave them advice about initial steps to take to have a Warrant Article drafted for a future Town Meeting.

The Commissioners were given a list of the conservation easement inventory lands in Newport; some were "Easements to the Town"; others were "Easements to the Conservation Commission". Mrs. Dennis read aloud the properties/easements and who controlled them.

Mr. Dennis addressed the Commission and stated they should look into acquiring Conservation Commission authority over all the Town-owned easements and property. There was another lengthy discussion on the role of the Conservation Commission, conservation easements and properties in Town, Conservation Commission income and the need to clarify the role of the Commission. Ms. Magnuson addressed the Commissioners and stated that their duties, responsibilities and power were covered in NH RSA 36-a. She read aloud from the RSA.

Meeting with Town Manager Rieseberg

Chairman Burroughs stated he has not had luck getting an appointment with the Town Manager and Finance Director to review the responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and to clarify what the Conservation Commission controlled. He wanted it to be clear as to where the Commission's money was coming from. The Commission members made tentative plans to meet with Town Manager Rieseberg and Finance Director Brown on February 22, 2018. Ms. Magnuson reminded them of the ruling which states that if a quorum of a board met; a meeting notice had to be posted 24 hours prior. The group that met with Town Manager Rieseberg and Finance Director Brown would not be a quorum of the Conservation Commission.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

Newport Golf Club

Chairman Burroughs addressed the Board and stated that he had been notified by the golf course concerning work that they would be doing near the river on their property. He had seen it and they were doing a very good job. Ms. Magnuson was acknowledged. She concurred that the golf course was doing an excellent job and that they had filled out all wetlands permit paperwork (maintenance of a non-docking structure), submitted plans, had DES supervision and that she had a file on the work being done-the Commissioners were welcome to review it in her office. Chairman Burroughs, Mr. Dennis and Ms. Magnuson were all impressed with the ongoing contact Mr. Catsum had had with them concerning the timeline of the work being done at the golf course.

Speaker

Mrs. Dennis asked if the Commission would still like Dode Gladers to speak. She was told yes. Mrs. Dennis would contact Mr. Dode Gladers about speaking at the March 2018 Conservation meeting and would contact Ms. Magnuson with the information.

Alternate request

Ms. Magnuson addressed the Commission and stated she had received a letter from Mrs. Kristen Boffo. Mrs. Boffo was requesting to step down to an Alternate position due to her busy work schedule.

There was a short discussion by the Conservation Commission members on her request. On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Hannum; ***the Commission voted to have Kristen Boffo step down to an Alternate position on the Conservation Commission to empty a fulltime slot for a new Commission member. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

There was general discussion regarding possible violations of the Planning Board approval for Newport GMC dealership. Ms. Magnuson stated that if Planning Board conditions of approval are being violated there is a legal process that should be followed.

MTL Services

When asked, Ms. Magnuson told the Commission members that Mr. Jeremy Turner and Ms. Laura French had been paid for their services.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Hannum; ***the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved: March xx, 2018