

**Town of Newport, NH  
Newport Conservation Commission  
Minutes of March 27, 2018  
6:30 PM  
Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building  
15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kristen Boffo, Ken Dennis

**VIDEOGRAPHER:** NCTV

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Hannum called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. followed by a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** accepted as presented.

**MINUTES:** February 20, 2018

Minutes of February 20, 2018

On a motion by Mr. Richer, seconded by Mrs. Dennis; *the Board voted to approve the minutes of February 20, 2018 as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Richer abstained).*

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

Chairman Hannum stated that he had information on upcoming classes/workshops in April and May by the Timberland Association that were available to the Conservation Commissioners. Ms. Magnuson requested that a copy of items in the Conservation Commission Town mailbox be given to her department so informative items could be included in the members monthly packets. Chairman Hannum agreed to leave a copy at the Town office.

Financial Report

Mrs. Dennis requested that the Commission review the financial report from Finance Director Brown. There was a general discussion on the report and questions on the following:

- ❖ Payment to the Turners (MLT)
- ❖ Bill for the Airport. Ms. Magnuson stated that it must be a filing error and would get the bill to the appropriate department
- ❖ Fund balance of \$36,433.00
- ❖ \$11,000 to the General Fund for the invoices that had been paid out of the General Fund
- ❖ Doolittle Printing for the Conservation Commission letterhead that was purchased

**ADMINISTRATION:**

- ❖ **Review and comments on the following topic:** In an effort to acquire easements for the Town approved 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Knolls Streets Infrastructure Project, a donation of land was offered to be given to the Town of Newport. The Board of Selectmen approved the generous offer on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. In accordance with NH RSA 41-14a, the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission will review the proposed acquisition and provide comments to the Board of Selectmen. The property owned by Arthur and Linda Demeis and is identified as Map 116 Lot 047 and located on the corner of Knoll and Juniper Streets.

Ms. Magnuson explained the construction project to the Conservation Commission members. She then stated that Mr. and Mrs. Demeis were gifting the land to the Town. Before the Town could accept the land there was a procedure it needed to take. There was general discussion by the Commission members on the plot of land being accepted by the Town. Ms. Magnuson told the Commission that the Planning Board had had no issues or concerns with the acquisition of the property.

*It was the consensus of the Conservation Commission members to recommend that the Town go forward with acquiring the property (Map116 Lot 047). The Conservation Commission had no concerns with the acquisition of the land under the purview of their authority.*

- ❖ The monitoring reports for the Yeoman, Wells & Barton Properties were submitted to the Office of Strategic Initiatives on March 25, 2018.

The Johnson monitoring report had not been filed as of March 27, 2018. The red file book was not in the Conservation Commission's files. It had been signed out to Mr. Richer. Mr. Richer would return the book as soon as possible. He would also send the Johnson easement report to the state. The state organization has been renamed and has new email address. The state organization is: The Office of Strategic Initiatives: Steve Walker. Its new email is: [steve.walker@osi.nh.gov](mailto:steve.walker@osi.nh.gov)

- ❖ Handout from Gardner Fulton & Waugh dated December 3, 2012 on the powers and duties of the Conservation Commission

Ms. Magnuson passed out a handout to all the Commissioners present. It was from the Town attorney and stated the duties, powers and responsibilities of the Conservation Commission members.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Dennis asked if the Commission would like to have Mr. Dode Gladders from the UNH extension office speak at one of the meetings. He would like to come and give a presentation in June 2018. There was a short discussion on the presentation and what Mr. Gladder would like to see done with the Conservation lands in Newport.

Ryan Young of the forest society told Mrs. Dennis he would be willing to help write a grant for LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) and a Moose Plate grant. Money would go towards acquiring conservation land.

Acquisition of the Johnson/Coit Mountain land was discussed. An appraisal of the land would first be necessary. There was a general discussion on the grants (above) and the Johnson/Coit mountain land. Mrs. Dennis asked the Commissioners if they would be willing to pay for part of the appraisal. There was further discussion on the land and a potential appraisal.

Mr. Young will be invited to the April 17, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting. All monetary decisions before the Conservation Commission were tabled until after Mr. Young's presentation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Co-Chairman Burroughs addressed the Commission and stated that as of March 27, 2018 he was resigning his position of Co-Chair and also resigning from the Commission. The members regretfully accepted his resignation.

Ms. Magnuson thanked Mr. Burroughs for his dedication and the hours he has put into the Conservation Commission. “It has been a pleasure to work with you”, she said.

The Conservation Commission members concurred.

On a motion by Co-Chairman Burroughs, seconded by Mrs. Dennis; ***the Commission voted to elect Mr. Hannum as Chairman. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

Mr. Richer spoke to the viewing public and the Commissioners present and stated they needed new people on the Commission that were interested in carrying out the conservation work in the Town. There was a general discussion and explanation of the responsibilities of a Commission member. Chairman Hannum asked that something be put on the Town website concerning needing Commissioners.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Burroughs, seconded by Mr. Richer; ***the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:08 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson  
Scribe

Approved: April xx, 2018