

**Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
Minutes of September 25, 2018
6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stanley Hannum, Chairman; Linda Dennis, Ken Dennis, Clifford Richer, Alternate

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kristen Boffo, Alternate

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Peder and Eva Johnson

STAFF PRESENT: none

VIDEOGRAPHER: none

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: On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mrs. Dennis; *the minutes of the August 21, 2018 meeting were approved as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Richer abstained).*

ADMINISTRATION:

The Commissioners were made aware of the 3,200 acres of Newport land owned by Mr. Bill Ruger, Jr. which had been sold to the NH Fish and Game Commission. The NH Fish and Game Commission will place it under their wildlife and habitat conservation and management program. The Commissioners expressed favorable observations on the property becoming conservation land

Financial Report

Chairman Hannum addressed the Commissioners and read from the Conservation Commission Interfund Balance sheet prepared by Finance Director Brown. Chairman Hannum read aloud the revenues, expenditures and changes in the Commission's fund balance. Total Conservation Commission assets are \$36,488.75. There were no questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on the Johnson Land

Peder and Eva Johnson were acknowledged. They stated they were in attendance because they wanted to hear what Dode Gladders said to the Commission.

They were told that Mr. Dode Gladders had cancelled attending the meeting. He would be at the October 16, 2018 meeting. Chairman Hannum and Mrs. Dennis addressed the Johnsons in attendance and asked that they give a synopsis of their land, what they wanted done with it and their easement to the Town of Newport.

There was a lengthy discussion between Conservation Commission members and Peder and Eva Johnson on their Johnson parcel. Mr. Peder Johnson stated he:

- Would like to see his parcel stay in one piece.
- Some of his property was already in an easement; it abuts the Newport easement.
- He would like to keep it open to the public and still maintain forestry and agricultural activities (Johnson controlled).
- The Johnsons would like to keep a few acres for future growth of their own family (some house lots).
- It was important to the Johnsons to keep it open land.

Mrs. Dennis asked if the Johnsons had divided the lots. She was told that Clayton Platt was in the process of doing it. Mr. Peder Johnson stated the lots would not consist of more than twenty acres. The remainder would be approximately 300 acres.

Mrs. Dennis asked Mr. Johnson if he had met the appraiser for the property. She was told no. There was a long discussion between the Commissioners and the Johnsons present about the appraiser and appraising of the property.

There was a discussion on the “Preacher Land” easement in Newport that abutted the Johnson property and the suitability of the Johnson Property to add on to the lands the Conservation Commission has built in Newport. There was a general discussion on the Town forest and conservation lands already in place.

Mr. Dennis addressed the Johnsons and stated that the Commission had voted to pay up to \$1,000 toward the appraisal of their land. Mr. Dode Gladders was the contact person given for that.

Mrs. Dennis asked who would write the easement for the property. She was told the Town attorney (Bernie Waugh). After more discussion on the current and tentative conservation easements in Newport, Mr. Peder Johnson made plans to meet with Mr. Cliff Richer in October.

Peder and Eva Johnson again expressed their interest in hearing Dode Gladders’ speech to the Conservation Commission. They gave contact information to Mrs. Dennis. The Planning and Zoning Department would contact the Johnsons if Jolyn Johnson was or wasn’t going to attend the October 16, 2018 meeting.

New Commission members

Mr. Dennis addressed the Johnsons and stated the Commission was always looking for interested individuals to join the Conservation Commission and help with the work it is doing in Newport to maintain and add conservation lands in the town.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Upper Valley Land Trust and Beaver Pond Farm

Chairman Hannum continued discussion on the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) requesting a Newport BOS endorsement and request for monetary assistance (the Land Trust still needed \$86,000). There was a lengthy discussion between the Commission members concerning the UVLT fundraising campaign for

Beaver Pond Farm (located in Newport, NH). The agenda item was asked to be tabled or for the Chair to explain to the UVLT that at this time the Newport Conservation Commission would not be able to financially support the effort.

On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mrs. Dennis; ***the Newport Conservation Commission voted to give \$5,000 to the Beaver Pond Farm fundraising campaign.*** There was a discussion on the proposed donation for the fundraising campaign. Chairman Hannum called for a vote. ***The motion failed unanimously 0-0-4.***

After further discussion of the agenda item, on a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Cliff Richer; ***the UVLT and Beaver Pond Farm fundraising campaign was tabled to the October 16, 2018 meeting. The motion passed 4-0-0.***

The Commissioners discussed the importance of contributing to the attempts of all individuals trying to keep tracts of land open spaces (undeveloped).

Monitoring Properties

Chairman Hannum addressed the Commission members and asked if anyone had completed their monitoring responsibilities.

The properties in question:

- ❖ Johnson-Ken Dennis and Cliff Richer
- ❖ Barton-Stanley Hannum
- ❖ Wells-Linda Dennis and Cliff Richer
- ❖ Yeomans-Linda Dennis and Cliff Richer

None of the properties had been monitored as of the September 25, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting. There was discussion among members about the monitoring; it was decided that they would complete the annual monitoring the 3rd and 4th week of October 2018.

Replacement of trees on the Common

After a discussion concerning the price (\$1,000 or less) of a replacement of trees on the Common, and acknowledging a tentative memorial donation for a tree by Mrs. Gloria Stetson, on a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Richer; ***the Conservation Commission would inform Mrs. Gloria Stetson it would gladly accept money to go toward one if not two trees to be placed only on the Newport Common in memory of her husband, Gardiner Stetson, Sr.. The motion passed 4-0-0.*** Mr. Richer requested that the possibility of purchasing a Chestnut tree in Gardiner Stetson, Sr. name be looked into.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Richer; ***the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved: December 4, 2018