

**Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
Minutes of December 4, 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

GUEST PRESENT: Dode Gladders, Field Specialist, Natural Resources; University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension

STAFF PRESENT: none

VIDEOGRAPHER: none

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hannum called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. followed by a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Cliff Richer was appointed to sit for an open chair.

AGENDA REVIEW: accepted as presented.

MINUTES: September 25, 2018

On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mrs. Dennis; *the minutes of the September 25, 2018 meeting were approved with the following corrections:*

1. *Peter Johnson should be Peder Johnson (throughout minutes)*
2. *Page one, last paragraph should be Dode Gladders not Dode Johnson*
3. *Page three should be Jolyon Johnson not Dode Johnson. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

ADMINISTRATION: The 1973 land management information put into the Conservation Commission packets was tabled to the January 2019 Conservation Commission meeting.

Mr. Dennis informed the Conservation Commissioners that Mr. Roy Malool would like to sell an easement to his land adjacent to the Town Forest. He wanted to present the language that he would like in the easement. Town Manager Rieseberg was not at the meeting to present the proposal. The subject was tabled to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dode Gladders, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Forestry Field Specialist/NH Licensed Forester, #472

Mr. Dode Gladders-Field Specialist and Licensed Forester, Natural Resources; University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension introduced himself to the Commissioners. He stated that because he worked for UNH he focused on education.

Services he provides are:

- ❖ Woodlot visits

- ❖ One-on-one consultation
- ❖ Walks properties with owners/commissioners
- ❖ Discuss management activities on property; your goals
- ❖ Educational Programs (inside or outside)

Mr. Gladders was in attendance at the meeting to help the Commission understand what goes into becoming a Town Forest. Requirements and processes are:

NH RSA states that the Selectmen are in charge of the Town properties UNLESS there is a vote of the town executive body (Warrant Article at Town meeting) to designate a given parcel of land as Town Forest. Mr. Gladders emphasized there had to be a vote.

If the Warrant Article passed at Town meeting, the Selectmen would no longer have control of the Conservation property (control would go to the Forestry Committee or to the Conservation Commission).

Mr. Gladders explained further about designated Town Forests.

Mr. Cliff Richer asked if land was designated Town Forest, its control would be taken away the Board of Selectmen. He asked if the BOS would have a say on what goes on in the Forest, since the Conservation Commission was independent of the Selectmen.

Mr. Richer asked if the Conservation Commission would have to answer to the BOS concerning Town Forest lands.

Mr. Gladders stated he was correct that the Commission was independent; but it was important that the BOS and Conservation Commission work together.

1. The Conservation Commission is funded by appropriations that the BOS decides on.
2. Conservation properties are on roads that need to be maintained by the Town

Mr. Gladders reviewed the establishment of conservation properties. He stated that to become a Town Forest the local Conservation Commission had to have a Forest Maintenance Fund. Proceeds from Timber harvests would be deposited into this fund for the maintenance of the land.

Mr. Dennis asked if each designated property in Town needed a separate fund; or if there could be one fund to cover all conservation properties in Newport. He was told the Newport Commission could have one (umbrella) fund for all the conservation properties in Newport.

Mr. Gladders passed out a question and answer handout concerning town forests, the management of them and of lands.

Mrs. Dennis asked if he had a template of an appropriate Warrant Article for the Commissioners to consider using at Town Meeting.

Mr. Gladders gave her resources to acquire one.

Mrs. Dennis asked if there was a minimum acreage for a parcel to be considered a Town Forest. She was told no. There was a general discussion on the acreage of the individual conservation lands in Newport.

Mrs. Dennis asked if the deed for Gilman Pond had been found. Mr. Richer stated it had been deeded to the Town of Newport. The Selectmen had put it under the jurisdiction of the Water Department. There was a discussion on the distribution of money from harvesting on this property.

There was further discussion on the Gilman Pond land, the Town Forest behind the high school, the properties adjacent to the high school buildings as well as potential land from Mr. Roy Malool.

Mrs. Dennis asked if the Warrant Article creating Town Forest in Newport would be a “hard sell”. Mr. Gladders did not know.

Mr. Gladders asked what the Commissioners wanted to do. He stated, for clarification, that Newport did not have any “official” Town Forest now.

There was a general discussion on the different parcels of conservation land in Newport.

Mr. Dennis addressed Mr. Gladders and stated that with any discussion on money, people want it (money) to go to taxes or water and sewer bills.

Mr. Richer asked Mr. Gladders if there was an average (dollar) figure for what could be gotten from an acre of forest in NH. Mr. Gladders gave a figure for a commercial harvest. He said that a harvest would be every 15-20 years.

Mr. Richer and Mr. Gladders discussed different kinds of trees and their worth, on the land management plan by Meadowsend Timberlands Limited (MTL) and the annual allocation to the Conservation Commission from the Town (currently nothing).

Mrs. Dennis asked Mr. Gladders for the names of communities to contact who were successful in creating Town Forests in their communities. She wanted the Warrant Article wording right and she wanted support for it. The commission wanted to get it on the March 2019 Town Meeting ballot.

Mr. Gladders gave a generalized rendering of what to include on the Warrant Article, to include the Selectmen in their efforts and how to approach the subject with townspeople.

He listed the following towns to contact:

- 1) Charlestown
- 2) Sunapee
- 3) New London
- 4) Cornish
- 5) Grantham

Mr. Gladders would send contact information to Mrs. Linda Dennis.

There was a lengthy discussion on the Warrant Article’s wording, the role of the Conservation Commission and where the money to fulfill their mission statement would come from.

Mr. Richer asked, for clarification, the steps they would need to take:

1. Contact Conservation Commissions in the neighboring towns (listed)
2. Have a planning meeting
3. Go forward to put a Warrant Article on the 2019 Town Meeting ballot

Mr. Gladders coached the group on how to approach the various commissions.

The Conservation Commissioners thanked Mr. Dode Gladders for attending their December 4, 2018 meeting.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Upper Valley Land Trust and Beaver Pond Farm

Chairman Hannum addressed the Commissioners and stated from the last information he had, the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) still needed \$16,000. There was a lengthy discussion among the Commission members concerning the UVLT fundraising campaign for Beaver Pond Farm (located in Newport, NH).

Mrs. Dennis asked for a list of conservation lands deeded to the Town that the Commission wants to make into Town Forest. Mr. Dennis said he would get a list from Town Manager Rieseberg for the Commissioners.

Replacement of trees on the Common

Mr. Dennis addressed the Commissioners and stated he was not able to purchase trees for the Common in the fall of 2018. He would have to wait until spring 2019. The Commission would pay for some and be reimbursed by donations. The types of trees available (salt resistant and zone tolerant) were: the Linden, American elm and Forge elm.

There was a short discussion among Commissioners about the replacement of trees on the Common.

Monitoring Properties

Chairman Hannum addressed the Commission members and stated that they needed to complete their monitoring. There were two properties whose the monitoring report needed to be sent to the state and an additional organization (he believed it was the Barton and Wells properties). He asked if anyone had completed their assignments.

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 December 4, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting. Mrs. Dennis and Mr. Richer would monitor the Wells and Yeomans properties the weekend of December 8-9, 2018.

There was a short discussion on an invitation to walk the trails of the Yeomans property with landowner Jerry Hagebusch.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Chairman Hannum;
the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved: January XX, 2019