

Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 20, 2019
6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen's Room/Municipal Building
15 Sunapee Street/Newport, NH

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stanley Hannum, Chairman; Linda Dennis, Ken Dennis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kristen Boffo, Alternate; Clifford Richer, Alternate

STAFF PRESENT: Liz Emerson, Zoning Administrator

VIDEOGRAPHER: Louis Cassorla

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hannum called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a roll call of those present. Chairman Hannum informed the Commission and viewers that there was a quorum for the March 20, 2019 meeting.

AGENDA REVIEW: accepted as presented

MINUTES: March 27, 2018; January 23, 2019

Minutes of March 27, 2018

On a motion by Mrs. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Hannum; *the Commission approved the minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting as presented. The motion passed 2-0-1 (Mr. Dennis abstained).*

Minutes of January 23, 2019

On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mrs. Dennis; *the Commission approved the minutes of the January 23, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0-0.*

ADMINISTRATION: Oak Street Bridge Project Projected Work Schedule –March 11-September 27
Zoning Administrator Liz Emerson addressed the Conservation Commission and stated that she had received a Project Schedule from the Daniels Construction Company on the Oak Street Bridge Project. They submitted it to her office as a courtesy to inform her of their tentative work schedule.

Mr. Dennis asked if the company needed approval from the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Emerson stated that they only had to keep the Conservation Commission informed. No approval was needed.

Daniels Construction had a wetlands permit (good to 2023) from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

Mr. Dennis asked Ms. Emerson to explain to the Conservation Commission members what went wrong (cutting before they had permission).

Ms. Emerson stated the following happened:

Cutting for the clearing was okay. She did not know the extent of the cutting (she heard it is extensive).

Mr. Dennis stated that the company cut more than they were supposed to.

Ms. Emerson was not sure. She would clarify that for the Commission.

Chairman Hannum stated the Commission had not seen an “Intent to Cut” on the property. He explained how the process of intent to cut worked. *Ms. Emerson would look into it and get answers for the Conservation Commission.*

Mrs. Dennis asked about Shoreline Protections at the site. She described areas and size of trees that had been cut in the area. There was a short discussion on the cutting. *Ms. Emerson stated she would look into it for the Commission.*

When asked, Ms. Emerson stated they (Daniels Company) had gotten New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) permission. When asked if the permission was to cut, Ms. Emerson stated she did not know. *She would find out for the Commission.* She was aware of approvals and permits.

Mr. Dennis asked, for clarification, if the project schedule submitted by Daniels Construction was informational to the Conservation Commission. Ms. Emerson stated yes. Chairman Hannum stated it was a courtesy submittal. Ms. Emerson agreed.

Mrs. Dennis stated the Conservation Commission needed to know if they are doing the right things on the shoreline concerning the cutting. Ms. Emerson agreed. *She stated she would look into it.*

Continuing, Mrs. Dennis stated that if they were not, there would be fines involved. Information on what was permissible was readily available at the Town Office.

Ms. Emerson stated she had been out in February 2019. She explained the cutting they had done at that time. Ms. Emerson stated she had given the Commissioners a map of what the site would look like. She then reviewed the tentative construction schedule.

Mr. Dennis used the map provided and explained where the extensive cutting has been done as well as the size of the trees taken down as of March 18, 2019.

Mr. Dennis asked if the Daniels Construction Company could tell the Conservation Commission what they were doing and why. *Ms. Emerson would look into it and find out.*

Mr. Dennis told the Commission that there was State money involved in the Project.

Mrs. Dennis asked Ms. Emerson to email the Commissioners with the answers (see italicized wording). *Ms. Emerson stated she would email Matt Belden (Vice President, Daniels Construction) and send his responses to the Commissioners.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Program Partnership with Dode Gladders and Sam Nelson

Mrs. Dennis addressed the Commission and stated she had received communication from Mr. Dode Gladders. He asked if the Newport Conservation Commission would be interested in partnering with him and Sam Nelson (Forestry Class at CTE) to conduct a tree and shrub identification class in the Town Forest.

Chairman Hannum asked if the class was all planned or just in the initial stages. Mrs. Dennis did not know. Chairman Hannum stated the Commission needed more information. They needed the When,

Where, Why and How questions answered. Chairman Hannum asked if the school group wanted money from the Conservation Commission. Mrs. Dennis did not know.

Chairman Hannum noted that the Commission wanted a good working relationship with the CTE class. He asked Mrs. Dennis to get more information for the Commission.

Summer Community Art request by Library Arts Center

Chairman Hannum asked about the summer community art bird request. He had no knowledge of it.

Ms. Emerson stated it had been brought to her attention that this had been brought up at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, March 18, 2019.

Mr. Dennis asked if it was happening or if the LAC was asking permission?

Ms. Emerson stated it had been proposed. They had been asked to get permission from the Conservation Commission and the Heritage Commission. Ms. Emerson understood that the Town Manager would be reaching out to inform the two Commissions and get approval. The LAC proposes to make simple faces out of clay with tack-backs which will be tacked to the trees on the Common.

Chairman Hannum stated no one wanted to have items tacked on the trees on the Common.

After reading the LAC proposal about hanging birds from the trees on the Common, Chairman Hannum stated the Conservation Commission's stand on the two items would be definitely no.

Mr. Dennis stated that the Buildings and Grounds Department had been approached in the summer of 2018 concerning the same thing, only with fish. He had said he had not been in favor of the project. He didn't know why the LAC could not display the birds proposed in the same way as in 2018. Mr. Dennis said he was not in favor of the 2019 project as proposed.

Mr. Dennis stated that the trees on the Common are in tough shape. The LAC Project sounded nice, but the reality of what will happen to hanging items is different. The proposal mentions hanging the birds on the lower branches as they proposed last year. The LAC also wants to affix faces to the trees.

The Conservation Commission is not in favor of having the project go forward.

Mr. Dennis stated he did not know if the Commission needed Town Manager Rieseberg to go to the Conservation Commission to give Commissioners more information.

Chairman Hannum and Mr. Dennis reiterated they were definitely not in favor of the proposed project. Mrs. Dennis concurred with other Commissioners that she was also not in favor of the proposed project.

Chairman Hannum stated for clarification that he was also thinking of it from a Town safety and liability standpoint. Mr. Dennis stated those were the same issues he raised last year (as the Buildings and Grounds Manager) when he had been presented the LAC fish project.

Mr. Dennis stated the LAC came up with a nice solution in 2018 to have their fish project displayed at the library. There was further discussion on the LAC proposal before the Commission.

Mr. Dennis made a motion, ***to deny the LAC proposal and that the trees on the Common are to be left in a natural state per the Conservation Commission.*** Chairman Hannum seconded the motion. ***The motion passed 3-0-0.***

Chairman Hannum stated that the Conservation Commission considered the project a no go. Mrs. Dennis stated the Conservation Commission was responsible for the trees.

Ms. Emerson stated she would pass the information on.

Mr. Dennis offered to go to the Heritage Commission meeting and represent the Conservation Commission and their stand on the LAC proposal if the Chair felt it was appropriate. Chairman Hannum agreed.

Mr. Dennis will attend the March 25, 2019 Heritage Commission meeting at 6:00 pm.

Claremont Conservation Commission presents, "The Uninvited"

Chairman Hannum stated they had been given a flyer on "The Uninvited" presentation to be held April 18, 2019 at 6 PM in the Claremont City Hall, 58 Opera House Square (the public is invited to attend). A flyer advertising the event will be posted in the hallway of the Town Office.

Chairman Hannum addressed Ms. Emerson and requested that the flyer be posted on the Newport Town website and to inform Mr. Sam Nelson, CTE instructor, of the program for him and his students.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Mrs. Dennis stated that "Forest Notes" from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's forests did a tally of the number of forests in NH. She was going to look into getting information for the wording of a Warrant Article to get designated Town Forests in Newport, NH.

Mr. Dennis again addressed the public and asked for participants and new members to the Conservation Commission.

Chairman Hannum asked if there was any other Commissioner who had red file folders (for land monitoring) signed out. No one did. Ms. Emerson offered to do the electronic filing of the land monitoring reports. It was gratefully accepted.

Chairman Hannum told her there was another state agency that had been asking for electronic information. They agreed he would go to the Zoning Office and work with Ms. Emerson on sending the information.

Johnson Lot

The lot was appraised. There was more work being done concerning the paperwork. There was a short discussion on the lot.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Emerson for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Chairman Hannum; *the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson

Scribe

Approved: April 17, 2019