

**Town of Newport, NH
Newport Conservation Commission
Minutes of August 21, 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, Clifford Richer, Alternate; Barry Connell, BOS Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Liz Emerson, Zoning Administrator

VIDEOGRAPHER: John Lunn

GUEST: Todd Cartier, Interim Public Works Director

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

AGENDA REVIEW: accepted as presented

MINUTES: July 24, 2019

Minutes of July 24, 2019

On a motion by Mr. Richer, seconded by Mr. Dennis; *the Commission approved the minutes of the July 24, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

ADMINISTRATION:

Election of Officers:

After a brief discussion on the election of officers, on a motion by Mrs. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Dennis; *the Commission voted to elect Mr. Stanley Hannum as Chairman of the Conservation Commission. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Hannum abstained).*

On a motion by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Mr. Connell; *the Commission voted to elect Mrs. Linda Dennis as Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission. The motion passed 4-0-1 (Linda Dennis abstained).*

Bill from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

Chairman Hannum brought a financial item before the Commission. He received a bill from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions for \$325.00 for 2019 membership dues. He asked the members present if the Newport Conservation Commission wanted to be members in 2019 and pay the Association \$325.00.

Mr. Dennis made a motion *that the Newport Conservation Commission pays membership dues of \$325.00 to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions for their 2019 membership.* Mr. Connell seconded the motion. *The motion passed 5-0-0.*

Todd Cartier, Gilman Pond Project

Chairman Hannum acknowledged Mr. Cartier and asked him what he knew about the Conservation Commission's proposal for the Gilman Pond Project.

Mr. Cartier stated he had briefly looked at the 2017 Gilman Pond Management Plan. He is familiar with watershed management. His biggest concern is water quality and invasive species. He knew both were covered in the report.

Mr. Hannum concurred and stated that the Commission did not want to do anything that would be detrimental to the water and watershed. Their objective was to make it better. The Commission wanted to have a buffer (zone) between whatever was done and the water supply.

Mr. Cartier said he thought the Commission should do a trial method to find one that works with the forest in the area. Chairman Hannum agreed.

Mr. Cartier listed the following cities to use as references:
Manchester Water Works (John O'Neill)
Concord, NH
Hanover, NH
Rochester, NH

Everyone has a plan and they all vary.

The Commissioners and Mr. Cartier held a general discussion on upcoming projects at Gilman Pond, tentative uses of the forester's recommendations and the potential impact on the forest surrounding the pond.

Chairman Hannum asked if Mr. Cartier would be interested in meeting with the foresters who drew up the forest management plan. Mr. Cartier stated he would like to sit down and also walk the site with them. He had not been able to do a complete site visit of the watershed. Chairman Hannum stated the Commission could set it up at a future date with Laura French and Jeremy Turner (foresters).

There was further discussion on the proposed Gilman Pond Management Plan and having a trial section done to ensure the practices were right for the watershed

Mr. Cartier asked what the long-term goals were for the Conservation Commission. He asked if Gilman Pond forest was going to be a revenue source for them. Chairman Hannum explained it was more for the health of the forest; to keep it vibrant. He stated that they were not trying to make money on any of the properties under their jurisdiction. They were just trying to conserve what is there; cut what needs to come down, leave the rest to grow naturally.

Mr. Dennis stated that foremost for Gilman Pond area is the forestry management part. The forester stated there were some trees that had to come down. The Commission needed to have a conversation with the Board of Selectmen concerning finances and the management of the Gilman Pond forest because the Conservation Commission does not govern the area (Gilman Pond).

Mr. Dennis and Mr. Cartier discussed other areas in Town that needed forest management and the need for a fulltime forest management program in place in Town.

Mr. Dennis stated he suggested that the Conservation Commission:

- Get some good information from Manchester on forestry management around their aquifers

- Get Laura French and walk the property together.
- Mr. Cartier could give input on areas and have conversations with the foresters; bring Mr. Cartier “on board”; it is his land to protect, too.

The projected meeting would be during late October-early November 2019.

Mr. Connell said that Town Manager Rieseberg has said he will listen to proposals. He wants to see a plan from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Cartier concurred with Mr. Connell to have a plan in place.

Chairman Hannum stated it would be beneficial to have Mr. Cartier sit down and give his side (water department) of the necessary items for the Gilman Pond watershed; both the site visit and discussion could be done in conjunction with one another.

Ms. Emerson will contact the Meadowsend Timberlands foresters to see when they will be available.

Mr. Dennis thanked Mr. Cartier for attending the meeting and thanked him for supporting their mission. The other Commissioners thanked Mr. Cartier and concurred with Mr. Dennis’s sentiments.

Project List from Conservation Commission

The request for the timber tax to go to the Conservation Commission was turned down.

A request was made of the Conservation Commission for a Project List or “wish list”. If the Commission had quotes for the work to be done the Town Manager wants to hear about it.

The Commission members listed:

- ❖ Replacing trees on the Common
- ❖ Management areas
- ❖ Easements the Conservation Commission wants to purchase

Mrs. Dennis stated to the Commission that other towns have money that is earmarked for their Conservation Commission. Mrs. Dennis said that the Newport Conservation Commission could put a Warrant Article on the ballot for commission funding (the townspeople would vote on it).

Mr. Dennis said that the commission should present their list and proposed budget to the BOS first. If the Conservation Commission was turned down, then they could draw up a petition warrant article.

Mr. Richer asked about the Nelson property and its easement through the Upper Valley Land Trust. He asked, for clarification, if the Conservation Commission does not need to monitor it. He was told he was correct, the Town had no responsibility.

He asked Ms. Emerson why the Commission was responsible for Wells, Yeomans and Johnson. Ms. Emerson stated the three were a specific type of easement that they want monitored.

Mr. Richer stated that they came through the Upper Valley Land Trust. Ms. Emerson told Mr. Richer she had inquired about them all. Newport did not have to do anything with the Nelson property. They had to monitor the Wells, Yeomans and Johnson properties.

There was a discussion on the monitoring and the lands. Ms. Emerson would find answers to the Commissioners questions.

Grade Stake Grant

Ms. Emerson addressed the Commission and stated that she had not found a grant for purchasing (metal) grade stakes. She was still looking. She had a purchase sheet from the state which she shared with the Commissioners. She was waiting for computer problems to be solved to get clarification on any purchases. There was a short discussion on the quantity to purchase, amount and where they would be placed on the boundary lines.

Chandler Mill Properties and Deeds

Ms. Emerson stated that the Conservation Commission was in charge of the two properties in question from July 24, 2019.. If the Conservation Commission disbanded than the land would go to the Town. The deeds state they are to stay as open space. The Town owns the little island by Claremont. Members stated that maybe the Town would donate the little island to the Conservation Commission for conservation purposes. Mr. Connell, BOS Representative, would ask the BOS and Town Manager if the island could be deeded to the Conservation Commission.

Chairman Hannum asked what the Commission gained by having the island (too small to use). He was told conservation. There was a discussion on the conservation of land.

Mr. Dennis addressed the viewing public and stated that the Conservation Commission was always looking for volunteers to serve on the commission.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Assignments for monitoring Conservation Properties in Newport

Chairman Hannum completed monitoring the Barton property for 2019.

Assignments for monitoring 2019:

Wells: Mrs. Dennis

Yeomans: Mrs. Dennis

Johnson: Mr. Richer

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson

Scribe

Approved: September XX, 2019