



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Conservation Commission

Approved Minutes

July 28, 2022

7:00 pm @ Community Development Department

Attendance:

Chairman Dave Curto- present

Vice Chair Wayne Morris- present

Pam Skinner- present

Kara Feldberg, Secretary- present

Lisa Ferrisi, regular member- present

Brian McFarland, alternate member- present

Joe Bradley, alternate member- present (excused at 9pm)

Mike Specian, alternate member- present

New business/ Old business

Campbell Farm Updates: N/A

Vice Chair Morris stated that there is dog bane in the area. The area was sprayed last year for this invasive species. Vice Chair Morris will get a quote for an application for this year from the licensed applicator.

The Board discussed the potential need for mowing in the area and when that might happen. The Board is in agreement that the next mowing can be done in September.

Clyde Pond/ Ashton Park Updates: N/A

1. Pollinator Garden Letter (Kara)

Ms. Feldberg stated that the Zakas family asked for a support letter for the project for milkweed which is a pollinator for the monarch butterfly.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris in support of the letter to be written by Ms. Feldberg for the milkweed pollinator for the project presented by the Zakas family. Seconded by Ms. Ferrisi. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.

2. Rock Pond Land donation

The Board discussed a parcel in the Rock Pond area. The Board will discuss this parcel at the next meeting.

Vice Chair Morris

Fosters Pond/ Greenway Updates: N/A

Deer Leap/ Moeckel Pond Updates:

The Board discussed that the proposal for the project for the ARPA funds was rejected. The rock wall project was \$34,000 and the price was misquoted during the proposals process.

Vice Chair Morris stated he would like to propose to use current use funds to pay for the rock wall project and to estimate the project would cost approximately \$39,000 for contingencies. Vice Chair Morris also stated the Windham Endowment might also have something they could contribute to the project.

Chairman Curto stated that the Conservation Commission will need to go before the Board of Selectmen in order to expend the funds from current use. The Board discussed the artifacts in this area of the pond. Chairman Curto and the Board discussed repurposing items in the area as well.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris to expend up to \$39,000 for the construction of the rock wall and the dam and to ask for the approval from the Board of Selectmen to expend these funds with the understanding that this cost may be off set by donations from other sources such as donations. This motion includes the continued consultation role of Mr. Norm Young in the project as well. Seconded by Ms. Ferrisi. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.

(as amended)

The Board briefly discussed the exact location of the rock wall.

Vice Chair Morris stated that the whirled bladder wort in the area and that it was non-invasive. Yet, Mr. Dianne Fallon reported that the bladder wort has doubled in size and he is concerned about how much is in the area currently. The Board discussed that all ponds are extremely low currently and all ponds are warmer which may mean an increase in vegetation. Vice Chair Morris would like to send a sample of the vegetation on the pond up to the state to assess the situation.

The Board discussed the best way to clean out some of the vegetation themselves along with the best way to get the sample to the state in a safe way so that the integrity of the sample is not compromised. The Board also discussed other options for water testing.

Rt. 28/Mclvaine Forest Updates:

1. **Forestry Committee cellar hole trail request.**

Ms. Wanda Rice addressed the Board. Ms. Rice explained the location of the town forest and stated that the plan is to have another whole loop and connect where the Osgood Cellar Hole is to the McIvaine Cellar Hole. Ms. Rice stated that it is about a half a mile of trails. Ms. Rice stated that they are looking for permission to cross about 400 to 500 feet in the area.

Mr. Specian asked if there were existing trails. Ms. Rice said there is a loop of about a mile and a half and there are several access points throughout the Wood Meadow Development. The price of the trail work would be \$2,750 which seemed like a reasonable price to Ms. Rice.

A motion was made by Ms. Skinner to allow access to the Forest Committee to construct trails in the area of the McIvaine Forest that will connect the 2 cellar holes. Seconded by Vice Chair Morris. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.

2. M&D request for estimate to connect Simpson cellar hole

The Board discussed this area that is owned by the town. The Board also discussed access to this area. The Board would need to go to the Selectmen first to get approval.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris to allow Chairman Curto to approach the Board of Selectmen to discuss the potential to connect the Simpson Cellar Hole to other trails in the area. Seconded by Ms. Skinner. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.

The trails would be established in conjunction with the Forestry Committee and would require an estimate for the trails work.

**Other Conservation lands and Easements Updates:
Miscellaneous items:**

1. Wildlife management bylaw update approved by Selectman

Chairman Curto stated that the Selectmen voted to approve these bylaws.

2. Wildlife study/ info. For inventory (Brian & Kara)

Mr. McFarland stated that they reach out to several groups and were referred to a local ecologist who would like more information about the time frame and properties but would be willing to work with the town. Hence, Mr. McFarland stated they are looking for more direction from the Board in terms of what they would like to see inventoried. The Board discussed the properties they might consider having the ecologist look at. The Board discussed what the ecologist might be looking to do in these areas. The Board would like to have a larger discussion about this at the next meeting once some questions from the ecologist are answered and the Board refines the scope of the project.

3. Master Plan (Conservation)

- a. **Public input meeting schedule**
- b. **Possible survey on social media**
- c. **Gather input from other boards, Forestry, Trails, Ponds and Lakes committees**

Chairman Curto discussed that the Planning Board would like to see some of these areas separated out so that each of the Boards might draft their own sections. Mr. Bradley stated that he took it to mean that each Board was being asked to gather their thoughts for the next meeting; they might not be being asked to seek out public input in the interim. Mr. Bradley stated that developing a framework of the general discussions from each Board would be adequate to bring back to the Planning Board in terms of each Board's vision for the Master Plan.

Vice Chair Morris stated that there will need to be some cutting and pasting between previous thoughts around the Master Plan and the Board's vision for the future. The Board discussed the best way to gather information about each of the ponds; this will likely be reaching out to each of the improvement associations for each of the ponds.

4. Land appraiser quote

Chairman Curto stated that they are not going to discuss specific lands but he has reach out to an appraiser to discuss a parcel that the Board discussed previously. The cost from the appraiser would be \$2,500.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris to approve an appraisal with a cost of up to \$2,500 to Heath Appraisal Services for a parcel discussed in non-public. Seconded by Ms. Feldberg. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.

5. Trails committee meeting review

The Board discussed updating the Master Plan information along with a discussion of the expansion of trails in Derry and Salem and the opportunity for connectivity to these 2 towns. There are several trails off the Rail Trail that will also be discussed. Vice Chair Morris discussed some of the easements and trails in town and the potential for connectivity between these trails and easements.

Chairman Curto discussed several developments that have bonds and are under construction. Chairman Curto stated that several of them have trail language in the easements. Chairman Curto would like to see what the language looks like so that the Conservation Commission can review the final language as well along with the Planning Board.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris that the Conservation Commission request that the Planning Department review documentation of the conservation easements before the

the final payments to the development properties discussed are released. Seconded by Ms. Skinner. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.

The Board discussed the best way to proceed to be sure these easements are preserved and the properties are not infringed upon. The Board also discussed that some of these are conservation easements and some of these are conservation easements.

Mr. Bradley excused himself at 9pm.

The Board discussed current use funds and how those might be expended.

ZBA & PB: N/A

Intent to Cut Applications: N/A

DES Permits & Correspondence:

- 4 Cole Rd, (Parcel 13-K-31) – Restoration Plan Approval

The Board reviewed the plan as presented including the planned mitigation. There was no action needed by the Board at this time.

Signage on Conservation land

Mr. Specian stated that the signage at Moeckel Pond is superior and all the rules are clearly outlined. Mr. Specian stated that until the town starts posting the regulations, they cannot expect that the rules will be followed.

The discussion moved to Clyde Pond and pollution in the area.

Chairman Curto asked who would like to reach out to Cheryl Haas at the Recreation Department to see where they might obtain a similar sign and the best way to install this sign in other Conservation areas.

The Board discussed the potential for youth volunteers from the high school to help with the Clyde Pond clean up for community service hours.

Vice Chair Morris stated he would look into the signage and volunteers.

Mr. Specian stated he would touch base with the Police Department to follow up regarding the cameras.

A motion was made by Ms. Skinner to adjourn at 9:05pm. Seconded by Ms. Ferrisi. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.

Conservation Commission
July 28, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Anitra Lincicum

Approved