

# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

Tel. (603) 899-5181

Fax (603) 899-2101

TDD 1-800-735-2964

## Minutes for Meeting on May 11, 2020

*This meeting was held online via Zoom.*

### Internet Meeting Questions – Richards & Drouin

The meeting convened at 7:03 pm.

Roll Call was taken and the following members were in attendance via Zoom: David Drouin, Joseph Desruisseaux, Richard Mellor, Phil Simeone, Doreen Richards, William Preston, Deni Dickler, Fred Dodge, Al Lefebvre, Paul McPhie

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Playscape Update** – Richards reported that she met with Jennifer Brooke, consultant from Lemon Tree, at Tetreault Park with Mellor and Rubendall to review the site and its potential for development as a playscape. Brooke, in attendance during the online meeting, explained the possibilities for the project and the importance of deciding the project's mission statement to foster public interest and fund raising potential. Brooke identified areas to work on during the May 16 clean-up day at Tetreault and other items that need to be addressed which she mentioned in an email that was distributed to Commission members before the meeting. Other items that were mentioned that need to be addressed included: playground inspection for liability, maintenance, utilities (solar possibilities), composting toilet, developing a full plan with phased implementation, items for design and, holding public meetings to explain the plan to residents. Brooke was happy that a parking plan has been already designed. Lefebvre noted that the selection, design and funding of the actual playscape items were the responsibility of the Recreation Committee. Drouin recommended that Minutes of the meeting be sent to the Recreation Director.
- **Fundraising updates** – Lefebvre reported that Pipeline Awareness Committee's donation of \$2000 to the RS&G project was received and deposited to the Conservation Fund account for the purchase and that he sent a letter of appreciation to the group. He indicated that we are seeking more contributions Conservation Corps members and that it was also a good time for the Commission itself to make contributions; names of contributors will be maintained while amounts will be kept confidential.  
The subcommittee recommended printing a donor card and mailing envelope for placement at Rindge locations to allow residents who are willing, to contribute. The card will be similar to what was shared with the Commission in March. Lefebvre motioned to spend up to \$700 from the Conservation Fund for printing costs. Simeone seconded the motion. Drouin polled Commission members and all approved the expenditure.  
Lefebvre reported that the Fields Pond Foundation had received the Commission's grant application but would not be reviewing it until the summer. He reported that he had talked with LCHIP who indicated the Commission could apply for funds again this year but the deadline is Friday, May 15 which appears too difficult to complete given other priorities.

Rick Van de Poll visited the RS&G site on May 4 with three Commission members accompanying him on the walk. He is gathering costs for mitigations projects and will let us know when he has figures: arm Fund pre-application deadline is May 29.

Lefebvre reported that he had received a call from Anne McBride of the Monadnock Conservancy offering a swap of funds. In 2018 the Commission had provided the Conservancy with \$10,000 from Rindge for the Bearce easement but which was later learned did not follow appropriate procedures. Since they had not yet returned the funds, the Conservancy had found another donor to provide the funds instead, she suggested that they hold the Commission's \$10,000 and apply it to the stewardship for the RS&G project. The Commission agreed with the proposal.

- Ford Property Update – Drouin reported that a legal opinion will be needed to clear-up final issues on the Ford land transfer. The legal cost has to be determined as well as who will pay for them. Lefebvre reported that the property survey has been completed and marked but needs to be walked and confirmed. A neighbor requested that the R-O-W be changed from North St to East Main St. The Commission discussed this but because the easement between homes on East Main St is too narrow, the current arrangement will remain. Drouin estimated the cost of a split rail fence to separate the border with Ford's current property line will cost about \$650. The Commission will work at the property on May 23 to move rocks at the entrance to the parking area and other needed work.
- Results of BOA meeting concerning NH DES Variance Application with BOA and Application for Special Exception, M 4, Lot 33, Route 119, Kevin & Shelly Kinnunen for Cynthia Cooper – Site Review report. Drouin mentioned that the applicants may appeal the BOA denial and may legally question the ordinance itself.
- Farmer's Market Update – Dickler reported that the Commission is welcome to have a place at the weekly market (every Thursday, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, June-Oct). Having a table costs \$5.00. She recommended purchasing a tent canopy and having maps, brochures, hand sanitizing liquids and commission apparel available. Dickler indicated she would email a chart for volunteers to select a Thursday to help at the table. Two people are recommended to be in attendance. Mellor motioned to allow Dickler spend up to \$250 for a canopy and other needed material from the Conservation Fund. Lefebvre seconded the motion and Drouin polled the commission members and all agreed.
- Tree Removal Update – Drouin reported that he had been in contact with Mike Cloutier, DPW Director, who indicated he was grateful for the funding to remove trees on the Common. Lefebvre also reported that the Selectmen expressed their gratefulness at their last meeting.
- Turtle Signs – Drouin reported that he talked with Cloutier about missing signs. Cloutier indicated that he had just put up signs but thoughtless people are removing them causing more town expenses and staff time.
- Monitoring of conservation lands – Commission members reported visits to Tetreault, the Town Forest and Sandback.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Robertson BOA Review of case no. 1125, Map 21 Lot 18– Drouin introduced Earl Robertson who had filed for a hearing of his application for a variance to replace a shed currently being used as living quarters for friends with larger quarters. The expanded quarters impinge on setbacks required for shorelines. Robertson explained what he needed and the drainage that was planned. He also reviewed the size and shape of the new building. The Commission decided to hold a site review on Thursday, May 14 at 6:00 pm.

- Tetreault Park Cleanup May 16, 8:30 am - Conservation Commission - up day.
- Converse Meadow bridge repair – McPhie repaired a board on the bridge that had been reported by a resident.

RINDGE, NH 03461  
Tel. (603) 899-5181 Fax (603) 899-2101 TDD 1-800-735-2964

- Code Enforcement Letter – Drouin said he prepared and sent a letter to the Selectmen on the need for a Code Enforcement officer.
- NH DES Wetlands Best Practice Technique for Avoidance and Minimization manual at Town Office. Lefebvre reported that this manual had arrived and is in the Commission's mailbox for anyone who would like to read it.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** April 23, 2019

Mellor motioned and Desruisseaux seconded to approve the April 23, 2019 Minutes. The Commission was polled and all approved.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION EMAILS** - None

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None

**OFFICIAL NOTICES** – NH DES Notification #2020-00781 of Shoreland Permit Application at Map 34, Lot 19, Red Gate Lane by Andy Krook – discussed by the Commission but because there was no application, Drouin said he would contact the owner for more information.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** May 28, 2020 via internet

**2020 Schedule of Meetings:** June 8 & 25, July 13 & 23, August 10 & 27, Sept. 14 & 24, Oct. 12 & 22, Nov. 9, December 14

*Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.*

*Minutes recorded by Al Lefebvre*