

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

Tel. (603) 899-5181

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TDD 1-800-735-2964

Minutes for Meeting on April 13, 2020

This meeting was held online.

Internet Meeting Etiquette – Richards reviewed how to use Zoom for the meeting and resolved usage issues.

The meeting convened at 7:03 pm.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Playscape – Richards reported that she had talked with the Lemon Brook consultant who informed her that the company was closed down due to the coronavirus pandemic. When they are ready, they will contact her to move forward.
- Earth Day & Clean-up. The Women's Club has cancelled the annual clean-up day due to the coronavirus pandemic. Residents were being asked to go out on their own to clean areas but maintain appropriate separation from each other. No collection bags will be available.
- Ford property survey – Lefebvre reported that he and Desruisseaux had met Russ Hunley the surveyor on April 10 at the Ford property while he was working on the survey. Hunley indicated that part of the property was not conveyed to the Town and that the Commission needed to take action to resolve the issue. Drouin indicated that he had been in contact with the Main Street Title who recommended a Quitclaim and would start making arrangements to obtain a Quitclaim deed with the needed signatures.
- Fundraising updates –
 - o Progress to date - Lefebvre reported that Dickler had completed and filed a grant application with the Davis Foundation and that he was working on one for the Fields Pond Foundation. He indicated that due to the coronavirus pandemic, the plan for a mailing to residents to request donations was placed on hold. This hold may affect the Anonymous Donor's match donation of \$25,000 if the Commission does not receive sufficient funds to match. At the present time, the Commission feels it would be inappropriate to conduct a public campaign requesting donations in light of the state of the economy. Donations in the meantime will be accepted from residents who are willing to donate to the Commission's matching grant.
 - o Grant possibilities – ARM Fund & Van de Poll contract. Lefebvre reported that Rick Van de Poll indicated that it would be best to identify the mitigation projects on his report that the Commission considers feasible at this time. He would then develop a cost estimate which would be included in the ARM Fund application. A revised budget would be developed for the ARM Fund application. Van de Poll indicated that it is not unusual for such a budget to increase. While we have a very good chance of receiving needed funds, adding funds for mitigation may enhance an application's funding possibilities.

Presently, the Commission planned to request \$225,000 from the ARM Fund but the mitigation costs might increase that cost by \$50,000-75,000 to about \$300,000. With the possibility of additional grant funds along with funds from the Anonymous donor, the Commission would be able to handle the increase.

Van de Poll indicated his cost to calculate possible project mitigation costs and provide application preparation assistance was \$2000. Lefebvre made a motion to expend \$2000 for Van de Poll's work and Simeone seconded. The Commission was polled and all of the Commissioners were in agreement. Lefebvre will contact Van de Poll to proceed as soon as possible as the deadline for the pre-application is May 29.

- Grant Oversight Update – Desruisseaux had nothing new to report. Lefebvre indicated he would try to meet with the owner over the coming weekend when he is at the site working on equipment.
- Hunt Forest Clean-up – Drouin reported that six Commission members and two volunteer/ Corps members assisted with the clean-up on March 11. Brush was cleared and trails opened to make it better for users.
- Monitoring of conservation lands – Richards indicated that she had walked the trail at Town Forest down to Homestead Rd and found one tree down. Rubendall reported that he had walked Tetreault Park and part of the Town Forest. Lefebvre reported that he had placed a notice on the Town's web site that the Town's conservation lands were available for the public to use especially during the period of the pandemic. Appropriate distancing was recommended. Drouin will send a similar notice to the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript.
- Wildwood Camp Scholarships – Lefebvre reported that he had received three applications for the day camp scholarships. The Commission approved the three day camp applications for Eliana Ludlam, Dylan Knight and Hannah Knight. There was only one overnight scholarship with two applicants. The Commission awarded the overnight campership to Phil Knight (age 9); the other applicant received a campership last year.
- Monadnock Conservancy Surveys – Lefebvre reviewed the surveys and who was working on each: McPhie had already submitted the Converse Meadow survey, Richards will complete the Town Forest survey, Rubendall will complete Miriam Hunt and Lefebvre will complete Sandback and Tetreault Park.
- ATV prohibited use at Converse Meadows – Drouin reported that he, himself, had not received the postal return letter sent to the party who had cut a trail through part of Converse Meadow to allow his personal access to that conservation land for ATV use but Drouin understood that the unsigned return letter was supposedly at the Town Office. He will notify the Monadnock Conservancy of the violation.
- Van Dyke violations – Mellor reported that NH DES will review and respond to this violation as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

- 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. The BOA meeting was postponed to its April meeting because the parties had not been properly notified. Drouin indicated that he had sent the Commission's site review report to the BOA.
- Simeone reported that he had reviewed a Planning Board application for Map 35 Lot 19 on Red Gate Lane to tear-down a building and replace it with another but that the plan was incomplete and did not provide proper setbacks or information about the replacement house's location. The Commission agreed that he should pursue the matter.

- Rogers reported that Scott Reynolds had requested permission to use the Rindge bat survey data with the Town of Fitzwilliam. The Commission approved.

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APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: March 28, 2019 – Mellor motioned and Desruisseaux seconded to approve the Minutes of March 28, 2019 with minor typo change. The Commission approved the motion with Dodge, Brooks and Rubendall abstaining.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION EMAILS - None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

OFFICIAL NOTICES – NH DES 2020-00298, After the Fact Approval, 108 Thayer Rd. Map 48 Lot 82, David & Marcelle Belanger. Reviewed by Drouin.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: None

NEXT MEETING: April 23, 2020 via internet using Zoom.

2020 Schedule of Meetings: April 23, May 11 & 28, June 8 & 25, July 13 & 23, August 10 & 27, Sept. 14 & 24, Oct. 12 & 22, Nov. 9, December 14

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes recorded by Lefebvre.