

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

Tel. (603) 899-5181 Fax (603) 899-2101 TDD 1-800-735-2964

Minutes for October 14, 2019

Conservation Commission members present: David Drouin, Al Lefebvre, Paul McPhie, Phil Simeone, Joseph Desruisseaux, Richard Mellor

Alternates in attendance: Deni Dickler, Rob Rubendall, Fred Dodge, Bill Preston

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm

OLD BUSINESS

- Trail maintenance – trees down on Town Forest. Drouin explained that these trees need to be cut-up and that the Commission needs to plan a date/time, possibly between now and next meeting.
- October Pearly Pond and Cyanobacteria presentation (Oct 19 at 9:30) – Dickler displayed booklets that will be available at the presentation on cyanobacteria. Tom O'Brien, Pres. NH Lakes will bring literature and an exhibit to the presentation.
- Playscape – Mellor reported that few people attended the Rec Committee meeting when the playscape was discussed. The playscape company that was guiding the development of the playscape said there was not enough town interest and was backing-out. The Rec Committee received a donation from POOR to help get a design for the playscape. Mellor explained the extent of the Commission's commitment to the project. The Rec Committee may have another company to help create the playscape design. The Rec Comm hopes that with a quote for a plan that it will help generate interest. Mellor indicated that he believes that the Rec Committee needs to recruit people from the local area to form a subcommittee to help drive the project; Mellor will contact Richards to help form a subcommittee.
- NHACC Conference on Nov 2 – At the next Commission meeting, those going to the conference will share the sessions they're planning to attend so we can see how well topics are being covered. Those Commissioners attending the conference will meet at the Town Office at 7:00 am to car pool.

NEW BUSINESS

- American chestnut trees – McPhie reported that he removed fences around the trees at Rindge Center and at the West Rindge Common. Most of the trees are doing well except the one on the south side of the West Rindge Common.
- Bench donation – Taylor Ratcliffe attended the meeting to explain the Jaffrey-Rindge MLK Committee efforts and its goal to give to community through projects. This year's project is building benches for conservation lands to donate to the community. The Commission liked the idea and agreed to assist and place as many benches as provided as well as also to build some. Ratcliffe was particularly interested in Converse Meadow but liked other areas as well. She also asked about the Converseville Rd area and the old mill and about whose land is the mill on. The mill is one the conservation land. Commissioners mentioned the need for clearing at the kiosk and would like to see what might be possible to improve the area. The Commission suggested that Ratcliffe develop a plan and return to another meeting. Rubendall and

McPhie may go out to Converse Meadow with a truck and pole saw to cut overhanging limbs as these cause limbs to bend over with snow which in turn closes trails.

- Jaffrey-Rindge School Facilities meeting Oct 26 (8:30-3:00) at JRMS/Conant
- Freedom of Information request – Lefebvre explained the request that was received and that the Commission had little to provide other than Intent to Cut applications.
- Contoocook & North Branch River Advisory Committee, annual dues \$100. Mellor motioned and Simeone seconded to approve payment from the budget. All approved the motion.
- Lefebvre mentioned that the supply of trail maps has run out and more are needed. Simeone motioned and Mellor seconded to purchase 250 more from the Conservation Fund. The Commission approved the motion.
- Mellor discussed NH DES' recommendation concerning limiting footage (400' on either side) of any new trails and smaller footage adversely affects wildlife.
- Rubendall reported said he has heard nothing new from NH Parks about trail clearing at Annett St. Park.
- Mellor reported turtle signs are down on Abel Rd and asked the Secretary to check on signs already ordered by the Public Works Director.

Mellor motioned and Simeone seconded to go into Non-public session. Commissioners were polled and all approved.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION per RSA 91-A:3 – REAL ESTATE

Mellor motioned and Preston seconded to leave the Non-public session. Commission members were polled and all approved.

Mellor motioned and Dodge seconded to seal the Minutes of the Non-Public meeting. Commissioners were polled and all approved.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: September 26, 2019 and Non-Public Oct 2, 2019. McPhie motioned and Desruisseaux seconded to approve the public and non-public Minutes for both dates. The Commission approved with Drouin abstaining for September 26 and Simeone, Dickler, Dodge, Mellor and Preston abstaining for October 2.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION EMAILS - None

CORRESPONDENCE

OFFICIAL NOTICES –

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Drouin reviewed the budget Report as of September 30. It was noted that the budget hearing with the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Nov 20. _

NEXT MEETING: Oct. 24

2019 Schedule of Meetings: Nov. 11 (Veteran's Day), Dec 9, Jan 13, 2020

Adjourned at 9:00

Minutes recorded by Al Lefebvre