

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes 2/16/2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by acting Chair Viens. Present were Commissioners Gwen Bronson, Karen Karagozian, who with Viens constituted the voting members for the Commission.

Also present were George Gurney a prospective commission member, Lisetta Silvestri representing LRCT (Lakes Region Conservation Trust) and Maureen Criasas, and Janan Hayes.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the commissions March 18, 2016, which had been overlooked in prior meetings, were reviewed and approved. Moved by Bronson, seconded by Karagozian and agreed by Viens.

Correspondence Review

There was no current correspondence.

Old Business

Fogg Hill Expansion/Former Bascom Property Easement. There was a review of the current proposed draft of a conservation easement to be held by the Town on the former Bascom property recently acquired by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT). Chair Viens noted that the agreement had been reviewed and approved by the Town's attorney. Mr. Gurney asked about an apparent "conflict" between sections 3C and 4C. Ms. Silvestri noted that these sections were worded to provide additional protection of the property and were not in conflict. Mr. Gurney also asked for an explanation of why the Town held the easement and Ms. Silvestri explained that by having separate property and conservation easement ownership the property would enjoy an extra layer of protection. A brief discussion was held on stewardship of the property and Mr. Gurney inquired as to whether or not LRCT would log the property. Ms. Silvestri responded that typically LRCT does not log property other than removing dead or fallen trees in some instances. She noted that if the property were ever to be logged a Forestry Management Plan would be developed in advance. When the discussion was complete Commissioner Karagozian motioned to approve the easement as drafted, seconded by Commissioner Bronson and agreed to by Chair Viens. The easement will now proceed to the Select Board for review. If approved, Chair Viens noted that a new check for the purchase would have to be issued to replace the check in the safe which is now over a year old.

NEW Business

HB 486. HB 486 is a House Bill which was recently "Retained" and is in committee for review and revision. This bill would provide State designated setbacks from any sensitive and ecologically critical wetlands. Ms. Hayes and Ms. Criasas noted that New Hampshire is the only State in the Northeast that does not have State designated setbacks for Prime Wetlands. It was noted that Center Harbor has an ordinance in place, however this legislation is important as many communities have yet to enact a comprehensive wetlands ordinance. Ms. Hayes requested that the Center Harbor Conservation Commission send a letter to the committee expressing support for passage of the bill. Commissioner Bronson expressed concern that as the bill is still in committee the Conservation would essentially be issuing a "blank check" to whatever bill comes out of committee, even if it is flawed. Commissioner

Karagozian suggested that as the CH Conservation Commission supports the concept of protective setbacks we could send letter of support “*in principle*” but subject to the final draft of the Bill. This would show support for the concept only and note that our final support would be subject to the final wording of the Bill. It was decided that the commission would draft a letter, share it with Ms. Hayes and Ms. Criasa for comment, and then make a final decision on sending. Chair Viens will attempt a first draft for review by the Commissioners.

Additional Business

Bank Statement: A recent statement from Meredith Village Savings Bank was reviewed showing a balance of \$66,885.12 in the Conservation Fund. Chair Viens noted that there had been some recent contributions to the LUCT fund had been received.

Roadway Maintenance Report: The latest report from the Center harbor DPW on roadway maintenance was reviewed.

DES Notifications: The following DES notifications were reviewed:

- Center Harbor Associates – Steele Hill re: Center Harbor Inn
- Gertz/Williams re: 28 West Bay Circle
- Scott Hobson re: 824 Winona Road

DES applications/wetlands Permits:

- 23 April Lane
- 220 College Road

DES Shoreland Permits:

- Margaret & William Adams – 220 College Road

Public Input: None

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Viens at 2:42 PM