

Acting Chairman Viens called the meeting to order at 11:01. Present were commissioners Gwen Bronson, Karin Karagozian and Harry Viens. Members of the public Don Berry (Lakes Region Conservation Trust - LRCT) and Maureen Criasia (Waukegan & Winona Watershed Protective Association - WWWPA).

Agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

1) Fogg Hill Conservation Area – Bascom Property Acquisition

Viens briefly recapped the Bascom property acquisition noting that it would provide better access to the Fogg Hill Conservation area while expanding the area by about 43 acres. The Town would receive a separate conservation easement on the Bascom property to protect the Town's investment. Don Berry explained that this portion of property was not part of the LRCT's ARM Grant application and it would simplify the process and the deed by having a separate easement. The members discussed the value of the Fogg property's role in conserving high value undeveloped land, as well as protecting the watershed and aquifer underlying Bear Pond. Viens motioned to reaffirm the Town's participation in the LRCT project to acquire the land by contributing \$18,000 from the Town's Conservation Fund to LRCT for the project and subject to (1) the Town receiving a conservation easement, (2) the Select Board's approval of the conservation easement purchase utilizing monies from the Conservation Fund and (3) positive feedback from the residents at a public hearing. Karin seconded the motion and Gwen agreed, vote was unanimous.

A second motion was introduced by Viens to ask the Select Board to approve the purchase of the aforementioned easement. Gwen seconded and Karin agreed, vote was unanimous. Viens will submit the request to the Board at the regular weekly meeting this evening. If the Select Board agrees the Commission would like to schedule a public hearing for December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM. Because the decision is a new agenda item and not on the published agenda for the Select Board meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> the item will carry over to the regular Select Board meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> for deliberation and vote, which would still leave sufficient time for Public Notice.

2) Mosquito Bridge/DES Letter

Viens noted that he had drafted a letter at the request of the DOT on behalf of the Conservation Commission to the DES regarding the environmental significance of the Snake River Prime Wetlands Complex and asking the DES to support the Town in its efforts to limit the DOT work on the bridge to repairs, and not to undertake a replacement of the bridge. At his request Maureen Criasia provided supporting information and integrated this material into his draft. The final draft of the letter was presented for review and discussion (a draft is attached as part of these minutes). The letter was reviewed and the committee felt that the final draft was appropriate. Viens moved to sign the letter and send to DES, Gwen seconded and Karin agreed, vote was unanimous. Letter was signed and will be sent.

No further business was brought before the committee. Meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM