

CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Cary Mead Meeting Room
Municipal Building; Center Harbor, NH
Tuesday, December 10, 2013

CALL TO ORDER At 10:10 a.m. the meeting was called to order. Commission members present were Maureen Criasia, Randy Mattson, Harry Viens, Joann Wood and Barbara Picard. Commission members absent with notice were Bruce Bond, Chair, Karin Karagozian, and Gwen Bronson.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

November 12, 2013: The minutes were reviewed by the members present and amended.

UPDATES

Meeting with Select Board

Bruce, Maureen, and Karen went before the Board on November 20, 2013 to discuss the Conservation Commission proposed budget for 2014. A proposed \$5,000 cost to amend the NRI and the Natural Resource chapter of the Master Plan was presented to the Board - It was agreed that the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission would split this cost 50/50. The final budget figure for the Conservation Commission for 2014 is \$3,000 (\$2,500 for the NRI update and \$500 for operating expenses.)

A request was made for an increase in the land use change tax appropriation to the Conservation Fund. Maureen submitted information about other towns' LUCT allocation which showed that the percentages were generally greater than in Center Harbor. The Select Board will endorse a proposed warrant article in 2014 which will ask the town to increase the LUCT allocation from 25% to 50%.

Fogg Hill Property Purchase/Conservation Easement/LRCT:

The property closing between the seller and LRCT was scheduled for December 2; there has been no notifications of any delays.

Boundary line agreements need to be made between two abutters and LRCT because previous surveys were shown to be inaccurate. The landowners will meet with LRCT and come to a consensus where boundaries will be located.

Drafting of the Conservation Easement Agreement by LRCT is in process and will include an indemnification hold harmless clause for the Town in particular due to impounded water on the property.

The conservation easement the Town holds on Kimball Island and Center Harbor Woods is monitored by the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS). Fogg Hill will need to be monitored by the Town, ie, the Conservation Commission. Joann suggested that volunteers go to a future SLCS monitoring workshop and take on the easement monitoring of Fogg Hill.

We should call Joan Turley at SLCS to find out when the next workshop will be held. Barb volunteered herself and her husband to be monitors and Maureen recommended Bob Nichols, a new resident living close to the Fogg Hill property as another potential monitor.

Water Resources Ordinance:

The new comprehensive water resources map and the tax map do not match up because the tax map is very old and was created with old technology. This will be reconciled via a vis the Planning Board and the new map approval will appear on the 2014 warrant.

Annual Report

Maureen and Bruce will submit a draft to Robin at the end of the month using material we wrote for the Fall, 2013 newsletter.

OTHER BUSINESS

2014 Warrant Articles

Warrant articles that need to be submitted next year:

- Belknap Woods Beaver Ponds; candidate for Prime Wetlands status

- To increase the LUCT from 25% to 50%. This will require discussion on the floor at Town Meeting. The selectmen will write the warrant article. The Commission should ask Carol Andrews from NH Association of Conservation Commissions for examples of warrant articles from other towns pertaining to this.

The Planning Board will write and submit the warrant article for approval of the new comprehensive water resources map which will serve as a preamble to the Water Resources Ordinance proposal in 2015.

Private Organizations

There was discussion about whether the Conservation Commission should become involved in attending meetings of local private watershed organizations. Harry thought possibly it would be advantageous to have a representative attend each organization's meetings for monitoring purposes. Randy expressed concern about that as the Conservation Commission represents town government and these are private organizations. For any major initiatives, these organizations would need to present to either the Conservation Commission and/or the Select Board. It was agreed that this discussion should continue when a complete commission is present.

Fire Department

The fire department has a new fire fighter who has experience as a grant writer. She may prove a good resource in the future for her grant-writing skills.

Next meeting

The Conservation Commission will not meet in January. February 11, 2014 will be our next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Randy, and seconded by Harry. Meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Picard, Secretary