

**Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
November 8, 2016
Approved Minutes**

Members Present

Ted Broadwater
Deb Munson
Chuck Myette, Chairman
Baron Richardson

Members of the Public Present:

Aaron Hume

Call to Order

Chairman, Chuck Myette, called the meeting of the Chester Conservation Commission to order at 7:10 pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

New Business

1. Beaver Trapping

A proposal from Brian Sullivan, who lives here in town, was received and reviewed by the Commission members. Brian is a student at University of Maine studying wildlife, works as a wildlife control officer, has trapping permits and wants to do some around some of the town properties that periodically flood due to Beavers, where population is a problem. It talks about the estimated count and what is and is not an acceptable harvest and methods of trapping. Mr. Sullivan wants to know if Conservation has any objection with his going forward. Deb spoke of her personal unfavorable experience with beaver trap injury to herself and family pet as a child and wondered if the traps could be clearly marked with warnings to people so that they can be avoided during recreational activities and hiking. Chuck would like to respond to this gentleman and let him know whether or not we'll sign a permit and whether we want to put some contingencies on it. Everyone was in agreement that it would be signed with those conditions. Chuck will email him. Expects the work would be done over school break. Chuck will find out when.

2. Southeast Land Trust. The Commission received a request for a \$100.00 membership gift for the year, together with newsletter which was passed around, and is having a banquet this coming weekend. Baron Richardson made a motion to renew the membership. Deb Munson seconded the motion, all in favor, so moved. Chuck will be responsible for sending that in.

3. Saturday is the Energy Conference, concerning renewables and new ideas at the Grappone Center in Concord.

4. Deb Munson is attending a workshop and conference Saturday, Chuck has info if anyone else would like to attend.

5. Review of Aerial Photography Monitoring Reports received.

Rockingham County Conservation District Easement on Church property.
Herrick Woods

Natural Area – Gladys Nicolls Trail by Chester Academy. Were some deadfalls noted and that the trail seemed difficult to use right now and has not been cleared despite being used for track last Spring.

6. NH DES Wetlands File, Town Farm Road and Halls Village Road.

Letter dated October 26, 2016 was circulated to which is attached a Wetlands Permit, with conditions, impacting a total of 1,883 sf of forested wetlands to include 416 sf of permanent impact and 1,467 sf of temporary impact for construction of two driveways and a 24" culvert per driveway to access buildable uplands for two single-family residential lots as part of a three-lot subdivision of 16 acres.

Old Business

1. Review Minutes

Chairman, Chuck Myette reported that he has not received the minutes from the meeting of October 11, 2016: Acceptance of the minutes to the October 11, 2016: Tabled.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Strategic Land Protection Committee – SLPC

B. Treasurer's Report (Chuck) **BILLS**

Conservation Fund has a balance of \$512,808.69

Forestry has a balance of \$33,618.52

Lincoln Lane Conservation has a balance of \$3,014.68

Operating Fund has a balance of \$750.00 with no expenditures.

Statement reflects a debit transfer that Chuck Myette will check into.

An invoice due March 1, 2017 for \$333.00 was received from the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions for 2017 Membership dues. Baron Richardson made a motion to pay the invoice. Ted Broadwater seconded the motion, all in favor, so moved.

Wadleigh, Starr & Peters sent a check for \$219.89 for return of monies held in trust by their office. Chuck does not recall what those monies were being held for and will have to look into it further.

C. Planning Board (Chuck)

Nothing new to report at this point.

D. Trails

Aaron Hume is working with Conservation to map trails. Chuck will email concerning his compensation, keeping track of hours and everyone agreed that with hunting season, rifle, approaching Saturday that Aaron should be outfitted with some gear and orange Conservation vests. Aaron reported that he wasn't sure how to present some of his findings. Some of the trails he has investigated include area off Ledge Road, Candia to Lane, Forsaith Forest, Herrick Woods, South Woods, Chester Turnpike, Parsonage Lane, Old Chester Turnpike, Spring Hill trails, Shepard and Towle and Fremont Road to Old Sandown. Aaron is looking for more leads. Aaron

was charged to consider making notes of his observations where there could be potential problems so that trail maintenance can recruit volunteers with chainsaws and ATVs, noting where trails end abruptly to see if they can be re-extended. Perhaps different colors for those that are good for hiking, biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ATV or footpath, high traffic, geared for other than casual hiker, mountain bikes. Aaron has a 60 day free trial he hasn't activated yet for GSI.

E. Springhill Farm (Chuck)

Chuck raised issue of representation and openings. Renovations have been made to the outside of the farmhouse, moldings, trim, clapboards and repainted white. Things are closing down for the winter.

F. Agricultural Commission (Chuck)

Chuck reported that it was kind of slow right now, with meetings every two months at this point, on the 3rd Tuesday, detailing some of the activities the group oversees such as the Town Fair, Cowplop Bingo, The Ugly Chicken Contest, classes, canning, soapmaking, and beehives to name a few.

G. Regulations

H. Grants – Trails grant

I. Wason Pond Conservation Area (Chuck)

Concern expressed about having two representatives at these meetings, with Patrick not here, Baron is the only one. It was suggested that some outreach may be needed and perhaps an article in the Tri-Town Times looking for volunteers with openings on this as well as Agriculture, generally meeting once a month.

J. Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship

Rockingham is updating easements at this time, that didn't have maps for Emerson Road, not an action item.

Just approved Rockingham District to do five we sent in a list, got that approval plus a call from Conservation service that monitors the farmlands. Senator Bell is one that is supposed to be done every year and didn't this past year, so looking for update report authorized them \$450.00 to get that done.

Plan Reviews

1. None

Miscellaneous Business

1. Harantis lake easement

Need to have an email conversation this week and get the ball rolling on this and Chester Turnpike easement.

2. Chester Turnpike easement

28 acres with some limitations to raising livestock and one criteria to have property surveyed and lot line adjusted to two lots, a combination of 7-8 and 7-16-2, the owner wants to make into one and conserve. Will need to look into cost of survey and contractor in town. No bid required if under \$5,000.00.

3. Web Page update

Adjournment

Baron Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Chester Conservation Commission. Ted Broadwater seconded the motion, all in favor, so moved. The meeting of the Chester Conservation Commission was adjourned at 8:17 pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer,
Recording Secretary