

Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
Approved Minutes of Meeting
December 13, 2016

Attendance

Present:

Chuck Myette, Chairman
Ted Broadwater
Phil Cassista

Aaron Hume (pending)

Call to Order

Chairman Myette called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM on December 13, 2016.

New Business

1. Beaver Trapping

Brian Sullivan will look into starting this sometime in February's school vacation. Chuck is going before the BOS Thursday night to get their feedback.

2. Logging South Woods and Town Land

3. Trail mapping

Aaron will take pictures while mapping and try to log the location of any interesting locations, sites or vistas that might be of interest to hikers.

4. Selectman's meeting

Aaron and Ted will need to appear before the BOS to confirm Aaron's membership and Ted's appointment as Treasurer. Chuck will discuss the beaver trapping plans at that time.

5. Annual Budget

Actual 2016 (\$750.00 budgeted)

Dues and Seminars	\$432.00 projected,	Year to date: \$333.00
		NHCC 49.84
		SELT 50.00

Remaining \$318.00

If we don't spend it just rolls over into larger account. If we have expenses we can take them out of that.

Estimated Budget (2017) (\$850.00)

Administrative Salaries	\$100.00
Printing	\$ 50.00
Dues & Seminars	\$400.00*
Miscellaneous	\$100.00
Exeter River Watrshed	\$150.00
Southeast Land Trust	\$ 50.00

Trail mappings we'll take from Conservation.

Old Business

1. Review minutes (Oct and Nov)

The minutes dated October 11, 2016 were amended as follows:

Line 41 correct spelling Conservation Commission Minutes, Line 62 substitute tax map for tax parcel, Line 64 correct spelling Wason Pond, Lines 69, 71 delete all references to audibility, Line 95-96 shall read: "to speak with our town lawyer. Twenty eight acre parcel. Person interested in protecting the two parcels and merging them."

The minutes dated November 8, 2016 were amended as follows:

Line 12 addition of Ted Broadwater, Line 56 correct spelling Gladys Nicoll's, Line 117 and 123 substitute Chuck for Jeff

Ted Broadwater motioned to accept the minutes dated October 11, 2016, as amended and November 8, 2016, as amended. Phil Cassista seconded the motion, all in favor, so moved.

2. Subcommittee reports

A. Strategic Land Protection Committee – SLPC

B. Treasurer's Report (Chuck) **BILLS/current use**

Conservation Account \$512,873.82
Forestry Account \$33,622.79
Lincoln Lane \$3,015.06

Receipts: received \$7,500 current use penalty in October, another lot closed on development on 121. \$75 for each house sold there.

Ted Broadwater motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. Phil Cassista seconded the motion, all in favor, so moved.

C. Planning Board – none

D. Trails

Aaron reported that he had recently mapped the trails at Towle and Bridle Path, still needs more work on Bridle Path. Aaron will activate his free trial of GIS software and start mapping after new year. Ted showed Aaron locations on the town map board to keep going on Chester Turnpike, and asked if he had done Warfield and Parsonage. Chuck asked about the Spring Hill Farm trails and Aaron said he had. Chuck asked about Wason, Lane Road and Ledge. Aaron reported that he had spent some time on Ledge road trails but not yet done Norton trails off Lane. Chuck asked him to do Pomp and Pulpit, the development that just got fees in. Chuck asked Aaron to track his hours and Aaron said that he had them time stamped.

E. Springhill Farm (Chuck)

Chuck reported that Spring Hill Farm had created a new non-profit trust, separate from the operational farm trust created by Miss Church, for a way to do grant and other types of things to have additional monies coming into the farm to do special projects and that once its approved by the IRS all funds will be rolled over. Chuck stated that he was looking for members for SHF Trustees.

F. Agricultural Commission (Chuck)

Chuck reported that Agriculture had met at the end of November and laid out some plans for coming year with a number of different activities including canning, soap making, bee keeping, and a maple syrup demonstration. Need to reach out to the farmers as they haven't done that for quite some time.

G. Regulations

H. Grants – Trails Grant

I. Wason Pond Conservation Area (Chuck)

Chuck reported that Wason Pond had met and gone over the annual budget, and conducted a walk over inspection of the condition of the buildings. The Barn needs a new roof. There are some things stored in there that should be cleared out. Talked about hiring an architect to see if structurally sound, eventually construct restrooms in the bottom area, restore the upper part. Money for the roof would ideally come from the Building Fund, in the Spring, if available, Tony is checking on that. If not, we would look into raising the funds. Looking into asphalt as opposed to more expensive, metal, (which would cost \$30,000).

J. Easements, Monitoring & Stewardship

Rockingham Conservation did send some reports which look fine, for Herrick Woods, Bridle, Wilson and Church Farm. Doloff needs to be done. Phil asked about the spreadsheet Patrick used to have and Chuck thought he still had one they could use. Bittersweet is a problem. Ted asked if inmates could help with that.

Plan Reviews

1. None

Miscellaneous Business

1. RCCD Easements
2. Chester Turnpike Easement

Ted reported that he had received response on Chester Turnpike, needs to get survey going and lot line adjustment. Need to follow recommendations from Letter of Intent and get that going with attorney. Ted will amend Letter of Intent and get it signed so they can engage the surveyor. Chuck showed the drawing that outlined the easement and combined the two lots.

3. Web Page update – none.
4. Other –

Membership and Officers (2017)

Chuck asked if anyone would consider becoming the new Chairperson. There was no response. Chuck asked if anyone would consider becoming the new Treasurer. Ted asked for a brief synopsis of the responsibilities and agreed that he would and it was voted

unanimously that Ted Broadwater would become the Commission's new Treasurer. Chuck will let the BOS know and asked if Ted would be available Thursday night for confirmation hearing. Chuck asked if anyone was interested in joining and Aaron said that he would. Baron should probably become an alternate, Patrick is not here and Jeff Geary has not been for many months. Two positions are available. Charlotte Lister was also interested. Ted asked about reaching out through the PTA meetings or posting in paper or online. Chuck asked if anyone wanted to be a liaison on Wason Pond. Ted felt it would be a good tie-together for him, since he is so heavily involved in the Pounder.

Conservation Guidelines:

Phil asked how you would respond to a landowner who asks about doing x,y,z near my creek or fields, what are the usual guidelines, when do they have to go before Conservation?

Chuck explained the state and federal regulatory guidelines and the role of the building inspector in enforcement of violations and the planning board's role with regard to new subdivisions and house lot restrictions and the DES permitting for wetland or terrain alterations and their Green Yards Inspector. The DES website has very clear guidelines. Planning has very clear guidelines for wetlands, setbacks, structures, buildings, roads. The EPA and vernal pools and when there is one omitted another larger tract is obtained. The ZBA can get involved in minor things.

Vests

Phil will check to see if he has anymore vests, otherwise Ted will order five (5) from Leftys in Derry and get the money from Finance.

Adjournment

Phil Cassista motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ted Broadwater seconded the motion, all in favor, so moved. The meeting of the Conservation Commission was adjourned at 8:12 PM on December 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer,
Recording Secretary