

Chester Conservation Commission
November 7, 2017
Approved Minutes
(via PACT Video Broadcast)

Attendance

Chairman Chuck Myette
Baron Richardson
Deb Munson
Aaron Hume
Ted Broadwater

Absent

Phil Cassista
Selectman Dick Trask

Guests:

Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Christine Snyder
Victor Chouinard

Chairman Myette called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

New Business

1. Appointments

Chairman Myette urged everyone to take care of their appointments, except for Mr. Hume who had done his last year. Mr. Broadwater asked if he just needed to see the town clerk, Erin Newnan to have his oath sworn. Chairman Myette asked Ms. Ragsdale if she was still interested in serving on Conservation Commission and explained the process, attending a few meetings and then to send an email stating that she would like to serve on the Commission. Chairman Myette advised that there was one open position.

2. Alex Davis Public Hearing

Chairman Myette reported that the 27 acre parcel off Ledge Road, offered by the Alexis Davis Estate, Tax Map 008-016 had closed today.

Old Business

1. Review Minutes – October 10, 2017.

Mr. Richardson motioned to accept the minutes, as written. Ms. Munson seconded his motion, all in favor, so moved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Strategic Land Protection Committee – SLPC

Chairman Myette reported that they had just closed on the 27 acres off Ledge Road, which is contiguous to some other properties we have. Mr. Broadwater recommended a deadline of two weeks for the surveying on the property off 121.

Chairman Myette reported that Crowley Woods, an easement of 110 acres where they are developing 100 acres, with 62 homes on the one property, they are working on language similar to others, with rights and restrictions.

Chairman Myette reported that Crowley Woods, was a new development in North Chester, near Candia and Raymond, a 62 home subdivision. The Conservation open space easement is 110 acres.

Ms. Ragsdale asked if there would be homes in all three communities. Chairman Myette explained that they were all in Chester, with some frontage in Candia along Crowley Road and another access bordering Raymond. Mr. Hume added how much more traffic, police, fire, and school impact and Ms. Munson stated that water for individual wells was of concern and Chairman Myette added and a cul-de-sac for the bus to turn around.

Mr. Broadwater asked if there was any movement on purchasing the property in between. Chairman Myette responded that there may be some discussions.

B. Treasurer's Report (Baron Richardson)

Mr. Richardson reviewed the operating budget which is \$800.00 and that he had a bill for dues for ERSALAC (Exeter River Watershed) for \$200.00, of which \$150.00 is in the budget. Chairman Myette added that that is another open liaison spot to recommend if someone had interest in that.

Mr. Broadwater motioned to pay the invoice of \$200 from ERSALAC. Mr. Hume seconded his motion, all in favor, so moved.

Chairman Myette reviewed the Conservation Commission Accounts history. We also have a conservation account close to \$700,000, a forest account, just finished a cut of hemlock because of the disease which has impacted trees, will be some funds from that, used to do some trails, swap timber, build covered bridge, other projects, some for the barn at Wason Pond.

C. Planning Board (Chuck Myette)

Chairman Myette reported that the Planning Board review of Crowley Woods Subdivision meeting was on October 11th and he attended that. Ms. Munson reported that Wednesday was a planning meeting on the 15th and she thinks she can attend that.

D. Trails (Aaron Hume)

Chairman Myette recommended that Mr. Hume get in touch with Mrs. Packard.

Ms. Munson recommended that Mr. Hume contact the Sandown Conservation Commission who is eager to help other towns with their gis mapping.

Ms. Munson stated that they could acquire mapping software from Granite for \$100.00 and to contact Catherine Callahan at catherine.callahan@doit.nh.gov. Mr. Hume stated that would be helpful to have.

E. Spring Hill Farm

Chairman Myette reported that there was nothing new at this time.

F. Agricultural Commission (Chuck Myette)

Chairman Myette reported that Agricultural Commission's last meeting was after the Town Fair in September, they met every other month and would be meeting again this month.

G. Regulations

H. Grants

I. Wason Pond Conservation Area (Chuck Myette)

Siding (Barn)

Chairman Myette reported that they had cut timbers and boards for residing the barn and plan to have the inmates reside the barn. They had done the roof earlier. Hopefully that will get done before winter.

Chairman Myette reported that there were discussions about the CIP for the pavilion or gazebo. It would be nice to have a shelter by the beach area, for programs down there, picnicking or whatever. Chairman Myette handed out some photographs of the proposed structures, some were fancy and some straightforward in design, a 20x40' structure, end pieces will look similar to the covered bridge, trying to match that. It will be built out of pressure-treated timber, six or eight, 4x6 posts per side, with a metal roof.

Ms. Ragsdale asked about whether it would have a concrete floor and Chairman Myette advised that decision is still being discussed.

Chairman Myette advised that the Commission met on the 1st Monday of each month.

Security.

Chairman Myette reported that the security system cost is a little prohibitive. The area had some difficulties with some folks warranting that.

Chairman Myette reported that a tree had come down on the bridge and Mr. Amato had cleared it. Also, if anyone hiking those trails notices anything to let the town know so they could take care of it.

J. Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship - None

Plan Reviews – None

Miscellaneous Business

Web Page update

Ms. Munson stated that the town would be changing their web page in the near future. Chairman Myette reported that he would take that off the agenda.

2. Seminars and Workshops

Ms. Munson reported that she had attended two seminars on how wildlife thrives with contiguous corridors and specified distances that certain species prefer to be from activities and developed areas.

Ms. Munson stated that she was thinking of Wason Pond and those big dead pines around there. Bats like high quality still surface water, loose trees, maple, oak and yellow birch, and white pine. Generally like six to eight snag trees per acre and need large diameter cavity trees near the shore or we could put bat boxes on the shoreline of Wason to encourage bat activity around there, possibly helping with mosquitoes. Chairman Myette asked if anybody knew if there is a bat population there. Ms. Munson continued, that you would hardly notice, they don't have any strength in their legs, other than to hang upside down, upper branches you think dead leaf and its a bat sitting up there, maybe a good idea to put those bat houses up. Ms. Munson added that they drink on the fly and catch insects that way. Chairman Myette asked if they said what kind of bats. Ms. Munson replied that there were the large and small brown bat, of some 9 species in NH, three stay in the area, overwinter, hibernate in caves, and the rest migrate.

Christine added that the little brown bats are the ones in danger right now. Ms. Munson continued "They hibernate October thru April." The best times to do tree harvesting is in the

Winter, not June and July that's when they are raising their young, to planning harvesting June or July should do acoustic survey to find out if you have nesting bats first.

Chairman Myette asked is that a project you want too take on, putting up bat boxes, talk to the Boy scouts or Girl scouts, they did bluebird houses one year. Ms. Munson added that there is a bat conservancy website that has all the specs on how to build, and where to place.

Ms. Munson stated that another seminar is in April on *Saving Special Places*.

5. Correspondence

Adjournment

Mr. Hume motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Richardson seconded his motion, all in favor; motion carried. The meeting of the Chester Conservation Commission was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer,
Recording Secretary