

**Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
November 13, 2018
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Chairman Chuck Myette
Deb Munson
Kristina Snyder
Victor Chouinard
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Aaron Hume

Absent:

Selectmen Liaison Stephen Landau
Ted Broadwater
Baron Richardson

Call to Order:

Chairman Myette called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Chairman Myette directed that the active alternates would be Kristina Snyder and Victor Chouinard.

Old Business

1. Review Minutes (October, 2018)

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale motioned to approve the minutes of October 9, 2018 as written. Mr. Hume seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Strategic Land Protection Committee – Non-Public Session 91A:3(ii)(d)

Chairman Myette advised there was a project to discuss in Non-Public Session under 91A:3(ii)(d) acquisition of real estate.

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale motioned by roll-call to go into non-public session under 91A:3(ii)(d) acquisition of real estate. Ms. Munson seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

The meeting room was closed to the public at 7:20 pm.

The meeting room was reopened to the public at 7:55 pm.

Ms. Munson motioned to seal the minutes indefinitely. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

B. Treasurer's Report (Baron) BILLS

Chairman Myette advised there was \$75,462.99 in the Conservation account (not including the c/d), \$40,521.93 in the Forestry account, \$10,050.28 in the Emerson account and \$3,038.50 in the Lincoln Lane account.

The Budget balance was \$678 with \$325.00 spent.

Chairman Myette requested those who wanted to be reimbursed for the Conservation Commissioner's meeting provide their receipts. Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale provided hers. Ms. Munson will email hers.

Chairman Myette provided the \$4,800 bill from the surveyor, Kevin Hatch, for the Hawkins easement survey.

Ms. Snyder motioned to approve payment to Kevin Hatch in the amount of \$4,800 for the survey. Mr. Hume seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

Ms. Munson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, as stated. Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

C. Planning Board (Chuck)

D. Trails (Aaron)

Mr. Hume advised that he reviewed the trail mapping with a goal to have an entrance and exit in mind and expressed concerns with properly indicating where trails that were town owned and maintained ended and private property began. Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale recommended signage.

Mr. Hume circulated copies of the proposed color maps. Ms. Munson stated the yellow stands out more and could be less prominent. Mrs. Neff Ragsdale asked about having different color trail systems. Ms. Munson advised that the information could be put on to trailfinder.com.

E. Spring Hill Farm & Advisory Committee (Chuck)

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee recently put on its first Fall Festival. There was a good turnout despite the rainy weather.

F. Agricultural Commission (Chuck)

G. Regulations

H. Grants – Trails Grant

I. -Wason Pond Conservation Area (Chuck/Kathy)

a. Security & Access

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale reported the park ranger has left for the season and will be returning.

b. Barn repair

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale advised that Selectman Landau would encourage the Town to finish the barn siding.

c. CIP Gazebo/Pavilion

Chairman Myette displayed a rendering of the proposed Pavilion that had been designed by Ms. Spence which will hopefully move forward in the Spring as a community project. The 20'x40' design will mimic the covered bridges, be opened ended, with pavers at the bottom and a green metal roof and should take a week to build.

J. Easements, Monitoring & Stewardship (RCCD) – List of Easements

Chairman Myette advised a report had been received concerning 21 Shephard Home which had cleared along the Exeter River, without a permit. The owners were notified and have until November 21, 2018 to take corrective action.

Mr. Chouinard expressed an interest in picking one or two easements to walk and review.

Plan Reviews

1. Pipit Estates (Eric Mitchell) Wadleigh Response Letter

Mr. Mitchell was not present. Chairman Myette advised that a note had been sent to Mr. Hadik in Planning. The attorneys have looked at the proposed easement language concerning Hampstead Water. The easement should be written with more restrictions and not held and monitored by the Town.

Miscellaneous Business

1. Annual Conference of Conservation Commissioners Meeting (Nov 3) (Deb, Kathy and Kristina)

Ms. Snyder attended the Citing Trails seminar, Beaver Seminar and Coyotes with Chis Schadler of Project Coyote. Ms. Snyder recommended having Mr. Schadler come and give a lecture. The fee for that would be \$200.00. All were in agreement to move ahead with that. Also, Ben Kilham who is a Bear Biologist is another good lecture and would cost \$500 as he is traveling. Ms. Munson offered the library may be interested in cosponsoring that lecture.

Ms. Snyder went to trails seminar regarding disturbances and indicated that keeping people on the trails, especially those that went through private property, would not only balance rights of owners but needs of wildlife. Chairman Myette advised some prime wetlands have habitat and species information.

Ms. Munson attended the Solar Seminar which discussed managing stormwater runoff and restoring compression and capping landfills. Enforcement of ATV's and Forest Fragmentation with Jeff Jones who gave as an example how the location of a windfarm could affect temperature and ecology.

Ms. Munson stated she is attending another conference at Lakes Region Community College on Friday, December 7th. Ms. Munson talked about the "forever wild" lecture topic which holds lands contiguously with other towns in their natural state.

2. Forsyth Forest

Chairman Myette stated he met with Pinkerton who are looking for projects to replace bridges and walkways and Forsyth Forest may be a good match.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2018

Adjournment

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary