

**Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
January 8, 2019
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Chairman Chuck Myette
Deb Munson
Kristina Snyder
Victor Chouinard
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Ted Broadwater

Absent:

Selectmen Liaison Joseph Hagan
Baron Richardson
Aaron Hume

Guests:

Call to Order:

Chairman Myette called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Chairman Myette directed that the active alternates would be Kristina Snyder and Victor Chouinard.

Old Business

1. Review Minutes (December 11, 2018)

Ms. Snyder corrected lines 143-144.

Mr. Broadwater motioned to approve the minutes of December 11, 2018 as amended. Ms. Munson seconded the motion, with Mr. Broadwater abstaining due to absence from that meeting, 5 in favor, so moved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Strategic Land Protection Committee (Chuck)

Pulpit Rock Road

Chairman Myette advised the owner will need to do a mortgage adjustment before proceeding. Tim Peloquin is preparing the survey and there will be a separate one for the two acres.

Raymond Road

Chairman Myette advised the BOS is considering the Warrant Article and has heard nothing new.

B. Treasurer's Report (Baron) BILLS

Chairman Myette advised there was \$75,601.85 in the Conservation account (not including the c/d), \$40,596.49 in the Forestry account, \$10,068.77 in the Emerson account and \$3,044.09 in the Lincoln Lane account. The balance of the CD is \$705,905.46.

Chairman Myette reported \$1,600 invoice has been processed for Farm Credit East for an appraisal. Ms. Snyder and Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale did not get reimbursed for the seminar.

Mr. Broadwater 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) – Tabled

E. Spring Hill Farm & Advisory Committee (Chuck)

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee will meet next week. Willa Coroka is the new Chair.

F. Agricultural Commission (Chuck)

Chairman Myette advised the Agricultural Commission did not meet last month.

G. Regulations

H. Grants – Trails Grant

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

The fields have been cut and there is an aerial photo that was taken by drone.

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

Chairman Myette advised they are working on an updated copy of the spreadsheet and a list of which properties have a baseline and when they were last monitored.

Plan Reviews – None.

Miscellaneous Business

Annual Budget

Chairman Myette reminded they have an annual budget of \$705 and have spent \$580. Dues and seminars were up to \$480 with \$300 budgeted, as members are utilizing that, so think

about changing that. \$123 are left. Administrative Salaries, nothing expended, continue to carry \$50 in case of special projects. Nothing spent on printing so didn't carry. The Coyote Project flyers were copied, and Ms. Snyder paid for those. In the future, could be more events so should carry a line for that. Recommended increasing Dues to \$500 as \$480 were spent with \$300 budgeted. Nothing spent on postage, keep \$1-line item to hold open as well as Contracted Services and Natural Resources Inventory Program. Budgeted \$200 for Exeter Watershed and have not received a bill for that this year, have to follow-up on that. SELT was \$100 and we questioned as this is normally \$50 unless we donate more for whatever reason, so increase this to \$100. Recommend keeping funds in for Wason Pond monitoring with RCCD at \$1 which is taken out of Conservation fund. Prime Wetlands Evaluation was last done 8-10 years ago, so keep line item \$1 for that and for Topo and Computer. Keep \$100 in Miscellaneous. Recommend total of approximately \$1,000.

Mr. Broadwater motioned to move forward the budget for FY 2019-20 in the amount of \$1,000. Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

Coyote Project

Ms. Snyder advised that she has scheduled the Coyote presentation with Chris Schadler for January 11, 2019 at the Multi-Purpose Room from 6:30 pm and hopes to have a meet and greet with the Conservation members with those attending prior to the start at 7:00 pm. Donations will be accepted at the door. Ms. Snyder went over refreshments to be provided and set-up.

Webpage

Ms. Snyder reported that she has put together a Facebook page for Conservation and uploaded some wildlife pictures and information about the Coyote Project presentation.

Member Appointments and Swearing In

Chairman Myette reminded that anyone who hasn't been sworn in should see Mrs. Newnan in the Town Clerk's office within the next two weeks. Chairman Myette asked if Ms. Snyder and Mr. Chouinard would be interested in being full members next year.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2019

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary