

**Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
May 14, 2019
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

Present:

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

Absent:

Selectmen Liaison Stephen Landau
Baron Richardson
Ted Broadwater

Guests:

Call to Order:

Chairman Myette called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Chairman Myette directed that the active alternates would be Kristina Snyder and Victor Chouinard.

Old Business

1. Review minutes (April 9, 2019)

Ms. Snyder motioned to accept the April 9, 2019 minutes, as written. Ms. Munson seconded the motion, with Mr. Hume and Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale abstaining, Approved 4-0-2, so moved.

2. Treasurer's Report, Bills, Budget

Chairman Myette advised the budget of \$703 had \$801.20 spent as of the end of April 2019. An advice of paper allocation fee has been received in the amount of .05 cents.

Chairman Myette advised the following balances, with no new bills:

Conservation Fund Savings	\$ 79,420.22
Forestry	\$ 40,764.06
Lincoln Lane	\$ 3,056.44
Emerson	\$ 10,110.33
CD	\$712,340.62

Chairman Myette distinguished the separation of the Forestry account which is used to reinvest in timberlands often from Town-owned Forest properties which are not in conservation easement. Chairman Myette noted there is a seminar on June 7th on Managing Town Forests in Fremont, NH.

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

3. Subcommittee reports

A. Strategic Land Protection Committee -SLPC

Pulpit Rock Road – on hold

Raymond Road – ongoing

Old Sandown Road – proposal

Norton Road – review

By Roll Call, Ms. Snyder moved to go into non-public session under 91A:3(ii)(d) consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property, which if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. Ms. Munson seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Snyder – aye, Munson – aye, Myette – aye, Chouinard – aye, Neff-Ragsdale – aye, Hume – aye, so moved.

The meeting room was closed to the public at 7:30 PM.

The meeting room was reopened to the public at 8:46 PM.

Mr. Chouinard moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session indefinitely. Mr. Hume seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

B. Planning Board (Chuck)

Cedar View Estates wetland flagging

C. Trails (Aaron) mapping

Mr. Hume reviewed the trail maps he had put together for the benefit of the Chester Public Library volunteers who were present to discuss the roll out of their backpack program. Some of the themes will be the cemetery, birds and animals and hiking trails, linked to reading materials. A library member, adult or child, can check out a hiking trails backpack and in those back packs the Library will include one of Conservation's trail maps. Mr. Hume noted the maps are in preliminary stages and users will need to be respectful of having limited boundary information and the rights of private property owners.

Mr. Hume noted that due to a summer employment opportunity in Portland, ME, he will be unable to attend meetings during the summer months.

73 D. Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (Chuck)

74 Chairman Myette noted in reviewing correspondence, receipt of the original trust documents
75 from Ransmeier & Spellman.

76 Chairman Myette indicated the Committee is putting together some events for Summer/Fall
77 2019 and will continue with their Edible Landscape Garden class. RFPs for haying and use of
78 the high tunnel are available.

79 F. Agricultural Commission (Chuck) - Tabled

80 G. Regulations - Tabled

81 H. Grants – Trails Grant - Tabled

82 I Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission

83 a. Earth Day Clean Up April 20th 10-12 am

84 Chairman Myette reported 8-10 people showed up to volunteer with clean up.

85 b. Pounder

86 Ms. Snyder reported that in addition to herself and Mr. Chouinard, there were
87 approximately 1,000 in attendance.

88 c. Security and access

89 Chairman Myette reported Ranger; John Wright has been hired for the Summer.

90 d. Barn repair

91 Chairman Myette reported barn repair will begin in July.

92 e. CIP Gazebo/Pavilion

93 Chairman Myette reported the engineering can be done this year and the building will
94 begin next year.

95 J. Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship (RCCD) – Review List of Easements

96 Mr. Chouinard will be attending class on Saturday.

97 **New Business**

98 Monitoring Conservation Easements Workshop – (Deb Munson)

99 Ms. Munson attended the Monitoring Conservation Easements workshop. The use of quadrant
100 compasses was suggested which have a 90-degree view rather than 360.

101 **Plan Reviews**

102 1. Eversource Wetlands/CUP – Bridle Path and Pingree Hill Roads

103

104 Chairman Myette noted Eversource, who had been in earlier seeking a recommendation
105 for CUP had run into difficulties with the Board of Selectmen who did not approve their

request. Eversource will need to find another access point which unfortunately will require disturbance of more wetlands area.

2. Richard Smith – Town Farm Road - Tabled

Miscellaneous Business

1. Next meeting: June 11, 2019

2. Bear Presentation (Kristina)

The Bear Presentation took place on Friday, April 12, 2019 at the Multi-Purpose Room. Ms. Snyder reported more than 60 people in attendance with a lot of interaction at the end of the presentation. The trail maps were popular, and the stuffed bear was raffled. Chairman Myette asked if there were any invoices from the presentation – no.

3. Appointments of Members

Chairman Myette reminded Mr. Chouinard and Ms. Snyder whose appointments were voted to change from alternates to regular members to go to the BOS and Town Clerk to be appointed.

Chairman Myette was elected to the Board of Selectmen and will not be able to serve as Chair and asked members to consider serving.

Chairman Myette noted liaisons were needed for Agriculture, Wason Pond and Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee.

4. BioBlitz – UNH Extension – (Kathleen)

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale reported the application was sent in a couple of months ago and hasn't heard.

Adjournment

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary