

**Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
January 14, 2020
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Chairman Victor Chouinard
Deb Munson
Kristina Snyder
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Ted Broadwater
Selectman Chuck Myette, Liaison
Rick Sibley, Alternate

Absent:

Aaron Hume
Baron Richardson

Guests:

Call to Order:

Chairman Chouinard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and activated Alternate Mr. Sibley.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to setup a "bait site" on a town-owned parcel

Steve Demers appeared before the Commission for recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to approve a "bait site" on town-owned property at Map 8-14-1. Mr. Demers noted the area near his tree stand would be baited with corn, peanut butter, molasses.

Mr. Demers noted he has hunted the area for many years. Hunting season is October to December.

Ms. Snyder indicated she was attending a Fish & Game presentation on the topic tomorrow and would bring back more information. Some concerns were with the spread of disease via saliva by animals grazing at a shared food source. Selectman Myette questioned whether baiting was allowed during hunting season. Chair Chouinard indicated concerns about setting a precedent for abnormal hunting/feeding of wildlife practices on town property.

Mr. Demers explained the site would be posted and three allowed users would be allowed to hunt at that site.

Selectman Myette asked if the food would be left overnight and Mr. Demers indicated it would. Selectman Myette noted it would attract other animals such as squirrels, chipmunks, skunks and bears and had concerned about neighboring property owners.

Mr. Broadwater indicated he would like some time to review the regulations.

Chair Chouinard noted no hunting would be going on this month and it could wait and be put on the agenda for a recommendation at next month's meeting after Mr. Broadwater and Ms. Snyder have done their research.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Review Minutes – December 10, 2019

Ms. Snyder motioned to accept the December 10, 2019 minutes as amended. Ms. Munson seconded the motion. Mr. Broadwater and Selectman Myette abstained. Approved 5-0-2.

3. Subcommittee reports

A. Strategic Land Protection Committee – SLPC

Chair Chouinard indicated he had two proposed non-public sessions under 91-A:3(II)(d)

Non-Public Session under 91-A: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.

By Roll Call, Mrs. Neff Ragsdale motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II)(d) consideration of acquisition of real estate. Ms. Munson seconded the motion. A vote was taken Neff Ragsdale – aye, Munson – aye, Chouinard – aye, Myette – aye, Snyder – aye, Broadwater – aye, Sibley - Aye. Approved 7-0-0, so moved.

The meeting room was closed to the public at 8:00 PM.

The meeting room reopened to the public at 8:45 PM.

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session indefinitely. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion, with all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report – (Mrs. Neff Ragsdale)

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale reported:

The operating budget of \$954.00 for FY19-20 will have a balance of \$8.21 after payment of postage in the amount of \$5. Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale questioned whether funds could be drawn from other sources.

Savings	\$ 40,519.06
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CD	\$400,421.90
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Forestry	\$ 41,071.38
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Lincoln Lane	\$ 3,079.70
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Emerson	\$ 10,186.55
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Mr. Broadwater motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, as stated. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

C. Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (Ms. Snyder)

Ms. Snyder reported the dying trees would be cut after the first of the year. The house while not open to the public could be used for committee meetings so the house will see some use. Trustees could do the work on the foundation. A new member joined the Committee who is interested in having a trail ride. The Committee discussed liability insurance and noted any event would have to go before the TRC for recommendations.

D. Agricultural Commission (Kathy)

Mrs. Neff Ragsdale reported she has not been in touch with Mrs. Leblanc but the Herb Society may have some interest.

E. Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission (Kathy, Kristina)

Ms. Snyder noted the Annual Report was reviewed. The parking lot and dirt pile were discussed. The last pounder will be May 30th. The beaver issue seems to be resolved. Mrs. Reishus has agreed to be Vice-Chair.

F. Easements, Monitoring & Stewardship

Chair Chouinard indicated he received an email from Arianna at RCCD who indicated the easements being held by them which would be done in the coming weeks, and invoiced for:

Natural Area, Herrick Woods, Wason Pond and the Church property.

Chair Chouinard sent out the letter to the Lincoln Lane homeowners and received three responses who would like to join them during monitoring and discuss the bridge funds and expressed some interest in the Commission.

Chair Chouinard proposed some dates to begin monitoring up to two easements per month once the snow cover has diminished. The ultimate time for monitoring is in the fall and early spring although he is not opposed to doing a wooded area with little groundcover in the summer months. The Commission agreed Sundays were better than Saturdays and Chair Chouinard proposed the second and fourth Sunday of the month. Mr. Sibley noted he would be available after the 2nd Sunday in March. Mr. Broadwater noted he was available the end of March or early April.

Chair Chouinard encouraged members to bring their reflective vests and secure their identification badges at the police station.

G. Trails (Mr. Hume)

Chair Chouinard noted he received a question about the trails which he forwarded to Mr. Hume.

PLAN REVIEWS

None

MISCELLANEOUS

120 Presentations (Ms. Snyder)

121 Ms. Snyder indicated the Pollinator Pathways presentation could be scheduled with Vicki Brown
122 at the Town Meeting room which has a capacity for under 30, the 1st Saturday in March at 10
123 AM.

124 Ms. Munson is attending the seed catalogue challenge.

125 North Pond Kiosk

126 Ms. Munson will try to find out more information about having science students take on the
127 North Pond Kiosk as a project.

128 **Adjournment**

129 ***Ms. Snyder motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Munson seconded the motion, with all***
130 ***in favor, so moved.***

131 The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

132 Respectfully submitted,

133

134 Nancy Hoijer,
135 Recording Secretary
136 Via PACT video