

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 16, 2019**

Members Present: Chairman Steve Wingate, Vice Chairman Mike Phelps, Members; Larry Gil, Laurel Podsen, Mark Howard and Selectmen's Representative Lloyd Wood

Members Absent: Members; Kathleen Murphy, Kate Nesbit

Staff Present: Linda Bean, Administrative Secretary

Steve Wingate opened meeting at 6:30 PM

We had a visitor tonight. Joanna Watkins decided to attend our meeting as she had an assignment to write a paper on a town meeting. She felt that the TCC would be an interesting meeting to write about.

I. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- **August 19, 2019**

Mike Phelps moved to accept the minutes as written, Mark Howard seconded the motion, all were in favor.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Great Meadows

- **Grant Progress**
Progress seems to be very slow at the moment. LRTC recently completed a new round of edits to the easement deed document. Steve believes it is back with LCHIP at the moment.
- **Trail Progress**
Steve reported that they have had four work days so far, two of which have been rained out. Steve did meet with the landowner who objected to the trail being close to their property line. He explained that we tried to locate the trail further away, but a spring and very wet soil made that difficult. Consequently, there is a short section that comes close to the line. He suggested that we could post signs and pile brush along the line to discourage trail users from crossing the line. The landowner said she supported the concept of the trail and thanked us for taking the extra steps.
- **Invasive Weed Control**
Steve said there has been no progress on this front. Mike wanted to know if a four-wheeler could be used. Steve said that you cannot spray from a vehicle, everything used to spray would have to be carried. Lloyd Wood said that the Road Agent has too many projects to take this on.
- **Carleton Lot**
Steve said that Mike Carleton has offered to sell 12 +/- acres of land, map 32-2-5, next to Transfer Station, for conservation purposes. Steve met with the Selectmen regarding the purchase. They agreed to help with the acquisition and asked Steve to handle the research and negotiations. Larry Gil stated that one of the seeps that has landfill effluent is on this property. Secretary found a Groundwater Management Easement. Mike Phelps asked if the TCC should make a recommendation to the Selectmen to have this property appraised. Steve said that the Selectmen referred back to the TCC but yes, an appraisal would be needed. Larry Gil offered to be involved in this process.
- **Land Bank**
Steve was at the LB meeting today. LCHIP has made a visit to Pleasant Mtn project. We may hold an easement on this property in the future.

b. Budget

- **Draft 2020 Budget**
Water Monitoring is up \$500 because we now have two new people doing the monitoring, Lloyd Wood said that if the TCC feels the Town needs to step up to the plate, please let the Selectmen know. **Administrative Assistant** would increase by \$5696. Steve said he would like the secretary to have more time to clean up and organize the files, do deed research, provide more support to the volunteers managing TCC projects and participate in conservation education opportunities. Larry Gil asked if the secretary could do some spreadsheets and the secretary agreed to this. Mark Howard brought up the possibility of programs at UNH Coop Ex for the secretary. Steve said that would go under Publications and Conferences also. **Acquisitions & Monitoring** increased \$500, part of this is paying Rick Van de Poll who is working on two projects. Steve said that he met with the Selectmen about budgeting costs in working with MLPA to acquire an easement on the Hersey lot. They felt that because the cost will be over \$10,000 it should be approved at town meeting as a warrant

article. He is also working on the Hersey lot and the surrounding lots for comparisons. He has completed an inventory on one project. Before the TCC could take on an easement of anything over \$10,000 it would have to be a warrant article. **Envir Study 19 Mile Brook** increase \$100, **Mileage & Inspection Expenses** decrease by \$200. **Well Water Testing** is the same.

TCC added another line, **Conservation Educational Programs**, which would be \$570. This last line will likely need to be included in another category but Steve needs to consult with the town administrator to determine which one.

Lloyd asked if TCC should add a line for legal matters. Steve said that this was something he didn't think of and will be estimated and added.

Lloyd asked about a line for seepage at the landfill, the fees and testing costs for this. Steve said again we could be an advisor but really belongs on the Landfill budget.

- **TCC Membership**

Ray Everest is moving to NC so the Commission is in need of an alternate member. The Land Bank Trust is also looking for members. Laurel Podsen asked about the commitment details. Steve said they meet once a month, June through October.

III. STATUS OF NH DREDGE & FILL APPLICATIONS

1. **Janice Williams**

41 Tuft Neck Rd, MAP 51-2-43

Replace existing dock, location & dimensions will be same, work will be done in the fall.

2. **Red Gate Colony Club**

Lake Winnepesaukee, MAP 40-5-2

Maintain existing major docking facility and add 2 piling ice clusters.

3. **Hidden Valley Property Owners**

Lower Beech Pond, MAP 69-2-5 & 9

Dredge & fill 294 sq ft of the bank of Lower Beech Pond & install cellularly confined gravel pavers to stabilize an area used as a boat launch.

4. **Nancy Ferraro**

36 Boycroft Rd, MAP 62-3-2

Convert existing sloped beach into a perched beach by constructing a retaining wall behind the LW full lake reference line.

5. **David & Kimberly Gibson**

4 Whortleberry Island, MAP 26-1-4

Provide a single-family perched beach behind full lake elevation within applicants frontage within 4' Stepped access to the lake bottom. Dredge surface stones at 4' access lakeward of full lake for a total of 30sf.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Wadsworth Woodlands Inc**

Received a letter from a forestry company offering their services in managing sustainable wood lots. They specialize in forest management.

- **Libby Museum**

Asking for contributions for their museum expansion.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- **Nineteen Mile Brook Study**

Normandeau Assoc. is revisiting the study that was done in 2008 to see if they can detect changes in water quality and species that were there since the RIB has been underway.

Larry Gil provided some background information about the previous study and the remeasuring in progress now. Normandeau will be conducting one more water monitoring field day then processing the data for the final report.

Larry has been trying to resolve the past and current reporting of freshwater muscels. These are often found to be very sensitive to water quality changes. He has discovered that there is a population of **Pearl Shell Mussels**, just above the uppermost sampling station and feels that this is significant information.

Steve explained the importance and difficulty of maintaining genetic diversity in isolated populations like this and why the downstream water quality could be of vital importance to their survival.

- **Watershed Plan Progress**

Steve indicated that he would be attending an Advisory Committee Meeting on Thursday at 1:30pm. These meetings are open to all who want to attend.

- **Mirror Lake Conservation Plan**
Steve said that MLPA has paid Rick Van de Poll to do a biological survey on the Hersey property. He will also be producing a Conservation Plan that will evaluate potential for conservation on other ownerships in the watershed.
- **Old Home Days**
Steve said that he wished the turn out had been better. It could be because of the date. Larry Gil said that the kids really enjoyed the scavenger hunt. Laurel said the kids learned a lot as well.
- **Stantec and Landfill**
Larry Gil asked a month ago if Stantec had submitted to the town the results of the last monitoring that was done in April in 2019. All the town had was the 2018 data. Stantec replied that they would send the town the contract and when the town signs it, they will send the results. The requirements of the NHDES is that contracts be submitted in July. This is two years in a row that they have not complied. There have been several incidents where they have not been doing what was asked of them. Lloyd Wood said that it looks like this work will go out for bid this year to see if they can draw other companies into the process.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- **TCC Vest**
Steve asked the secretary to order 10 TCC Vests that would be worn by the members during inspections, events and other official activities members are involved in.
- **NHACC Ann. Meeting**
Steve asked members to consider attending and look over the workshop options for the NHACC Annual Meeting coming up. They should send their choices to the secretary before October 11th in order to take advantage of the early sign up discount.
- **Well Water Testing**
Laurel Podsen said she has more testing kits that will be put in the lobby. Steve asked Laurel if she would write an article for the Tuftonboro Times. She said she would do that.
- **Stream Restoration Conference**
Steve asked if anyone might be interested in going to this conference. This is being presented by the Belknap County Conservation District. This will cover the protection of our streams and how ideas have changed over the years. It is now believed that if a tree falls in a stream it is not a bad thing.
- **Cheney Farm**
Steve said that monitoring has be done soon. Also talked about the fact that this property will be sold at some point. Will need to make sure that the new owner is aware of the easement. There is a company that deals with this process.

Mike Phelps moved to adjourn the 09/16/19 meeting of the Tuftonboro Conservation Meeting, Mark Howard seconded; one more item was brought up by Steve Wingate.

Steve wanted to bring before the Commission the idea that hours not be set for the secretary. That she be allowed to come in when needed for different projects etc.

Mark Howard moved that the set hours be abandoned for six months, Steve Wingate seconded; all were in favor.

Mark Howard moved the 09/16/19 meeting be adjourned; Mike Phelps seconded; all were in favor.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Administrative Secretary
Linda Bean**