

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
January 18, 2016
MINUTES**

Members Present: Steve Wingate, Chairman, Mike Phelps, Vice-Chairman, Lloyd Wood, Selectman's Representative, Nancy Piper, Nancy Byrd, Kate Nesbit, Mark Howard, Members, Keith Garrett, Ray Everest, Alternates.

Members Absent: Larry Gil, Member, Bill Stockman, Alternate.

Staff Present: Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Chairman Wingate opened the meeting at 6:44 PM.

I. Consideration of Minutes

December 14, 2015

Corrections:

Page 1, Section II, Map Inventory and Digitizing, 4th line; insert "allow" prior to "accessibility"

Page 3, Section III, Eversource, 3rd paragraph; insert "and Mark Howard" following "Gil"

It was moved by Nancy Byrd and seconded by Nancy Piper to approve the December 14, 2015 Tuftonboro Conservation Commission minutes as amended. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

II. Discussion Items

A. Rules of Procedure

Steve Wingate requested consideration of appointing a Conservation Commission member as a representative/liaison to other Town boards and committees such as the Planning Board and Parks and Recreation). He stated that per the Rules of Procedure, wetland violation complaints are to be reported first to the Town's Code Enforcement Officer.

The Commission reviewed the Rules of Procedure and agreed to the following changes;

- Page 2, Article VII. C., 1st sentence; insert "preside at all meetings," following "The Chair shall"
- Page 3, Article IX, A., 1st sentence; strike "7:30 PM" & replace with "6:30 PM unless otherwise posted"
- Page 3, Article IX, D., 2nd sentence; strike "membership" & replace with "active voting members"
- Page 4, Article IX, J.; new 2nd sentence to read "Recusal of a member shall be determined by the Conservation Commissions prior to any vote on that issue."

Staff to submit revised Rules of Procedure for review and adoption at the next scheduled meeting.

B. Work Program

Steve Wingate requested consideration be given to developing forest management plans for Town owned properties and having the proceeds from Current Use Change Tax be placed in the Conservation Commission's land fund.

Great Meadow

Staff noted the mapping contract between the Town and Rick Van de Poll has been executed.

Kate Nesbit requested permission from the Commission for her and Steve Wingate to initiate a conversation with abutting property owners of the Great Meadow prior to receipt of Rick Van de Poll's report.

Steve Wingate stated he and Kate Nesbit would speak to the property owners regarding potential opportunities; noting they would not engage in any negotiations.

Lloyd Wood stated he supports such and noted Rick Van de Poll's 12/14/16 presentation is available at the Library.

The Board agreed to authorize Kate Nesbit and Steve Wingate to contact abutting property owners of the Great Meadow to discuss land conservation opportunities.

Steve Wingate stated Elissa Paquette, Granite State News, has offered to write an Our Town article about the Conservation Commission and include the Great Meadow property/project.

C. Map Inventory and Digitizing

Staff reported the contract with Lakes Region Planning Commission has been executed.

D. Mirror Lake Protective Association Report

No report.

E. Mirror Lake Watershed Committee Report

Larry Gil reported via his email, dated 1/18/16, that the chairman of the MLWC submitted an article to the Tuftonboro Times entitled "What Will Happen to Lang Pond Road".

III. NH DES Applications

John & Carla Codispoti/#2016-00137

28 Little Bear Island

TM #25-1-26

New Standard Dredge & Fill application to construct a 300 SF perched beach with 6' wide granite steps to access the water, install two seasonal PWC lifts and one seasonal boatlift. Reviewed by Nancy Piper; no objection.

Eversource

Route 171/Ledge Hill Road

TM #46-1-6, 57-2-1

New Standard Dredge & Fill application to install a new distribution line associated with the 390 distribution line located within the 100' Right-of-Way. Reviewed by Larry Gil and Mark Howard; no objection. Site walk conducted with applicant's agents. Received NH DES Letter of Acceptance.

Via an email, dated 1/18/16, Larry Gil reported the following; "Mark Howard and myself conducted a site walk with Tracy Tarr of GZA consultants of a portion of the proposed 346 x 2 Distribution Line on the morning of January 7th. The project calls for the addition of another power distribution line within the existing "Right of Way" (ROW) from the substation of Rt171 connecting to the expanded substation on Ledge Hill Road. The project crosses wetland pockets as well as stream crossings. We ended up walking the ROW from Rt171 to Dame Rd. All wetlands along the length of the project were flagged and delineated, Tracy pointed out the ones which were known or suspected of being classified as vernal pools. Assurances were provided that alteration would be kept to a minimum and oversight would be provided during the construction phase which is anticipated to begin in April of 2016. The ROW also serves as a snowmobile trail with several bridges crossing the wetlands, there were to be no alterations to any of the bridges. Tracy indicated that trees that encroached into the ROW would be limbed but was not sure if the limbs would be stacked or chipped. Of particular interest to me was the numerous evidence of wildlife sign within the ROW, deer fox, turkey, and squirrel primarily crossing perpendicular to the length of the ROW. I contacted Tracy early last week to inquire if she was aware of funding or a project which would allow thru the use of remote cameras to monitor/ document the usage and she

indicated interest and would get back to me with an answer. I was impressed with the thoroughness of the submission and Tracy's responses during the walk and subsequent follow ups."

IV. Correspondence

- BOS Town Office Closing Policy (for emergency purposes)
- NH DES sent a letter to Fenton Varney stating the Wetlands Bureau would investigate a potential wetlands violation

V. New Business

- Steve Wingate will send thank you letters to Jerry Light and Bill Stockman for their years of service to the Commission.
- Dan Coons, Chairman, Wolfeboro Conservation Commission, offered to hold a joint NH Wildlife Action Plan Workshop with the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission in which an invitation would be extended to Moose Mountain Regional Greenway and Land Bank of Wolfeboro-Tuftonboro.

It was moved by Kate Nesbit and seconded by Nancy Byrd to participate in a joint NH Wildlife Action Plan Workshop with the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

- Steve Wingate distributed the Northern Woodland Magazine.
- Upcoming Workshops:
Farm and Forest Workshop, 1/22/16 & 1/23/16
NHANRS Annual Conference, 1/29/16
Emerald Ash Borer Conference, 2/4/16
Water and Watershed Conference, 3/18/16
NH Arsenic Consortium, 3/24/16
Saving Special Places Conference, 4/9/16

VI. Old Business

- Fenton Varney Wetlands Complaint; Steve Wingate forwarded the original wetlands violation complaint to NH DES for review. NH DES sent a letter to Mr. Varney stating an investigation would be conducted.
- Orphan easements; no report.
- Fabian Family Revocable Trust; Mike Phelps stated Lance Williams is considering purchasing the property.

It was moved by Nancy Byrd and seconded by Nancy Piper to adjourn the January 18, 2016 Tuftonboro Conservation Commission meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Ann Keathley
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