

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MAY 20, 2019**

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

Members Absent: Members; Ray Everest

Staff Present: Linda Bean, Administrative Secretary

Steve Wingate opened meeting at 6:30 PM.

I. Consideration of 04/15/19 Minutes

Lloyd Wood moved to accept the 04/15/19 minutes with amendments, Kate Nesbit seconded, all were in favor (*all amendments will be in bold and italicized print*).

Consideration of 05/02/19 Minutes

Larry Gil moved to accept the 05/02/19 minutes as written, Kate Nesbit seconded; all were in favor.

II. Discussion Items

a. GREAT MEADOW PROJECT

• Acquisition Progress

Steve Wingate stated that the acquisition process was moving at a slow but steady pace. Rick Van de Poll is working on the Stewardship with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. Hoping for a mid-June finish date.

• Forest Plan Proposal

Matt Young, Chairman of the Planning Board, spoke of the benefits of a Forest Plan for the land that the Town owns. These land and resource management plans are an important tool in preserving our forests. Timber cuts would be good for the Town and the TCC to offset the lose of tax revenue. Mike Phelps asked if Lakes Region Conservation Trust would object to this process if they hold the easements or would they be involved in this process? Steve Wingate said LRCT's responsibility is to do annual inspections to see if agreements in the easement are being carried out. The easements currently has a detailed list of how a timber harvest should be conducted and any plan would have to follow those guidelines. Matt stated this should be a long-term project. Kate Nesbit said that given the numerous Town properties the cost would be substantial. Steve stated that not all of the properties would be included in this plan. Steve told Matt that he would like to finalize the current acquisition project on the GM before moving on to this project. Lloyd Wood suggested that several members should form a sub-committee to deal with this forestry plan. Kate Nesbit and Steve Wingate volunteered to head up the sub-committee.

Mike Phelps put forward a motion to form a sub-committee for a forest management program. Lloyd Wood seconded this motion; all members were in favor.

• Easement Recommendation

Steve Wingate stated that as part of the easement process for the GM project the Selectmen are required to ask for a recommendation from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission to except Lakes Region Conservation Trust as the holder of this easement. We should vote tonight to accept this contract with the LRCT. Each member received a copy of this easement to review prior to tonight's meeting. Steve said the TCC is committed to pay the LRCT \$5000 for stewardship activities. The payment is required both as part of the grant agreement and for LRCT to maintain its accreditation from the National Alliance of Land Trust and LRCT will monitor this easement indefinitely.

Steve Wingate moved to recommend establishing a conservation easement with the LRCT on the Sargent, Phelps and the two Fabian lots, Lloyd Wood seconded the motion; all were in favor

• Trail Progress

Steve Wingate finished a lay-out of the GM trail near the Town Garage. Lloyd Wood asked how long the trail would be. Mark Howard said that it was about 2 miles long, and that he has placed a map on the Town website. Steve stated that he has completed an estimate cost for the project based on the actual location

and measured distances. This figure is in line with his original estimates. He also plans to invite the Tuftonboro Assoc and the LRCT and any other interested parties to join him on a walk of the current layout and designs of boardwalks and bridges and get their thoughts and ideas before beginning any work. Lloyd Wood asked if the trail would be engineered so the Fire Department would be able to utilize their equipment for a rescue. Steve said that the trail would accommodate foot travel only due to the wet soils and limited width of the boardwalks. Lloyd also said that he met with Jim Bean at the proposed GM parking area and the spraying process for the Japanese Knotweed came up. Could the GM be put on the list of places to spray next year? Steve said that he has already thought of this but it will be something that would be for next year's budget. Kate Nesbit asked if the easement would allow spraying. Steve stated that this is something that would need to be coordinated with LRCT.

- **Fund Raising**

Steve said that there is a special addition of the Tuftonboro Times that is currently in circulation that contains an enormous amount of information about the GM. The issue contains photos taken by Ray Everest. This issue also solicits contributions for the GM Trail Project.

- **Camp Belknap**

Steve Wingate spoke with Stephanie Kassels, co-director of Camp Belknap, regarding the possibility of help with the GM trails. The camp is undergoing a lot of construction right now putting a lot of pressure on the Directors. So, Steve felt that he could work on details with the camp a little later. Lloyd Wood asked if chipper would help with the effort? Steve said he did not feel that a chipper would work on this project as this is too narrow and is too wet. He is thinking that a 32" path would probably be sufficient except for a few places. Lloyd Wood asked about the possibility of campers helping on the trails behind the Central School. Steve suggested that perhaps the members in charge of education projects might put this together.

- **Acquisition Celebration**

Mark Howard wanted to know about the type of celebration for the GM Trail. Steve Wingate stated that should be a "Thank You" to all involved in this process. Rick Van de Poll would be giving a walking tour. He is very good at this and is very informative. We need to get the word out so that everyone knows about the event. Steve said as soon as the closing is done, we can set the date.

b. BUDGET UPDATE

Kate Nesbit reviewed the current budget. The commission has used about 72% so far this year. Kate asked if we couldn't get a more detailed report of cash flow. The secretary will request, from the Tuftonboro Treasurer, a different report.

c. CYANOBACTERIA IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING TRAINING

Steve Wingate informed the members that there will be a training session in Wolfeboro at the Brewster Boat House, from 9:30am to 11am, on Wednesday June 26 for those interested in learning how to identify cyanobacteria blooms. There is not cost to attend this workshop.

III. STATUS OF NH DREDGE & FILL APPLICATION

Steve Wingate stated that the TCC does have the option to pass on reviewing these applications. Otherwise all applications will have to be included in the minutes. Larry Gil said that he felt that it is important to look at these. Mike Phelps felt the same way. At this time, we will continue to review all applications that the state sends to us.

1. **Bente & Craig Starble**

15 Winni-Shores Rd, Map 40-3-16

Was referred to the Wetlands Bureau, received approval from the state with list of conditions.

2. **Colleen & Glenn Raiche**

37 Cow Island, Map 38-1-43 & 44

Received approval from the state with list of conditions.

3. **Hidden Valley Property Owners Assoc**

Hidden Valley Rd, Map 69-2-5 & 19

State has requested additional information.

IV. Correspondence

- a. **RIB Field Trip 05/23/19**

Steve Wingate announced that there would be an open house and tour of Wolfeboro's RIB. He will be attending. It starts at 10 am and will probably run to noon. The focus will be on improvements they are planning for this year. It will include plans for the land acquired on the Tuftonboro side of the town line.

V. **Old Business**

a. **Earth Day School Program**

Laurel Podsen said she is ready to start hanging bird houses. The students at the school are very enthusiastic about the project. The bird houses will be set up on various town properties. The ones for the library will have to wait until the construction is finished. She will be waiting for the GM trail to be completed before hanging the houses there. She spoke with Ryan Gilpatrick, the principal of the school about putting up a map at the school with the location of each house. She spoke with Mark Howard about help with the maps.

Kathleen Murphy said she had distributed the response cards and all of the teachers were very much interested in the School Yard Site program. She said she contacted the SYS to inform them of the interest here.

She also put in an application for the Bio Blitz for next year because it is limited in the number of communities they can accommodate.

Steve Wingate asked if Kathleen or Laurel would be willing to organize the scavenger hunt on Old Home Weekend. Mark Howard said it would be August 24, 25 and 26. Mark Howard said that it was at the Fire Station last year. Children really enjoyed this scavenger hunt which was educational as well as fun.

Kathleen Murphy said she would help with this project. Laurel Podsen might be available. Larry Gil also offered to help.

b. **Well Water Testing**

Laurel Podsen stated she spoke with Nancy Piper as she would like to generate more interest. The lab is limited in the number of tests that can be done in a day. Ideas were thrown out as to how we could generate more interest in participation. Laurel said she is trying to interest the PTO at Central School in helping her focus a program that the kids and families could participate in.

c. **Nineteen Mile Brook Study**

Larry Gil went along with Joel Getty from Normandeau Assoc. as he set up sampling equipment along Nineteen Mile Brook. He checked on a rare species of mussel reported in the stream above the RIB effected area. These mussels can live up to 200 years of age and are found on both sides of the Atlantic. They ran into Dave Ford while sampling and Joel asked if Dave had been provided with a work plan and he said he had not. Joel will provide one. Larry asked Joel about conductivity measurements. Larry's numbers did not agree with his measurements. He may have to have his meter looked at. Larry also suggested that the TCC look for a different firm, other than Stantec Head Engineering, for testing at the old land fill site.

d. **Watershed Plan Progress**

Steve Wingate stated that Lake Winnepesaukee Assoc, who is managing the planning effort, had fired their contractor because they felt the company was not performing. They hired FB Environmental; they just finished a plan in Moultonborough. This had to be approved by the state as it is funded by a state grant. He expects that the Watershed Advisory Committee will be meeting soon.

e. **Wolfeboro/Tuftonboro Land Bank**

Steve Wingate said that the Land Bank and the LRCT are working to acquire the Albee property on the Tuftonboro-Wolfeboro town line. LRCT has asked the TCC to hold a conservation easement on the property. Lloyd Wood asked if this would be of any cost to the town. Steve said that there would be not cost to the town. Steve felt that LB and LRCT have helped TCC in the past and we should return the favor. Steve asked for a vote on this issue.

Kate Nesbit moved that TCC should hold the easement on the Albee property, map 68-2-1 & 2, Larry Gil seconded; all were in favor

f. **Swap Shop**

Steve Wingate wanted to let everyone know that there is meeting about this next Monday evening of a volunteer group to address issues that resulted in the closing of the swap shop at the transfer station. He feels that this is a conservation issue and it is good to repurpose things rather than throw them away.

VI. **New Business**

a. **Easement**

Kate Nesbit informed TCC that she would like to go through the process of donating an easement on a second lot that abuts property she already has an easement on. She will bring a map to the next meeting.

b. **Drinking Water Conference**

Larry Gil typed up a summary of the conference he recently attended. He also stated that he had spoken with Mike Carleton, from Water Industries, about speaking at one of the TCC's meetings. Lloyd Wood suggested that he make a half-hour presentation and that we have Joe Kowalski tape the meeting. Steve said that he thinks that would be fine. Mike Phelps also added that this would be good to educate everyone about new technologies.

Mark Howard moved that Mike Carleton brief us on the current state of septic design at our next TCC meeting, Kate Nesbit seconded motion; all voted in favor.

c. Upcoming Workshops

Steve Wingate reviewed upcoming workshops with the members.

d. Change in Membership

Steve Wingate informed members that Ray Everest would like to change his status to an alternate member on the Commission. This would give Laurel Podsen the opportunity to become a voting member of the Commission. Laurel stated that she would like make this change.

Mark Howard moved that Laurel Podsen be a voting member and accept Ray Everest's request to become an alternate member, Larry Gil seconded; all were in favor.

Kate Nesbit moved to adjourn the 05/20/19 of the Tufonboro Conservation Meeting, Mike Phelps seconded; all were in favor.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Bean