

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 13, 2017
MINUTES**

Members Present: Steve Wingate, Chairman, Mike Phelps, Vice-Chairman, Lloyd Wood, Selectman's Representative, Larry Gil, Nancy Byrd, Mark Howard, Nancy Piper, Members, Ray Everest, Alternate.

Staff Present: Lee Ann Hendrickson, Administrative Secretary.

Chairman Wingate opened the meeting at 1:04 PM at the Libby Museum.

I. Discussion Item

A. Libby Park Proposal

Steve Wingate reviewed the current deed as approved by the court and BOS.

Alana Albee stated the proposal includes a narrow, low-impact footpath on the property to be used primarily for educational and conservation purposes and does not include parking, picnicking, boating or swimming. She stated the footpath would be re-established within the restrictions of the Fiduciary Deed (2007); noting a desire to maintain the property in its natural state. She stated the grounds and property are a public amenity; noting the park would be open to the public.

Nancy Byrd requested a copy of Dr. Libby's will.

Mike Phelps asked who owns the property.

Alana Albee replied the Town of Wolfboro; noting the building, land behind the building and the vista was awarded to the Town in 1956 through Probate Court. She stated the Libby Park property is held in trust by the Town of Tuftonboro.

Larry Gil stated Dusty Davies questioned the proposed use as a commercial use because a fee or charge for use would be incurred.

Alana Albee stated the fees contribute to the maintenance of the building; noting the Museum received \$5,000 in user fees in 2017 and the Town of Wolfboro contributes \$40,000 to maintain the property.

Mike Phelps asked if there is private property between the park and the Museum.

Alana Albee replied no. She noted the path would cross a right-of-way.

Steve Wingate stated he previously met with Ms. Albee and noted that it is possible to construct a path without any ground disturbance.

Nancy Byrd stated there has been a disproportionate amount of roadkill in the area of the Museum; noting protection of wildlife should be considered. She stated animals as well as the property should be preserved.

The Commission walked the proposed route for the path.

Alana Albee stated the most feasible level area would be constructed as the path; noting low growing brush would be removed.

Larry Gil questioned whether a picnic area is proposed.

Alana Albee replied no.

Steve Wingate noted opportunity for conservation education and potential wild environment classroom.

Kate Nesbit questioned whether informational signs would be posted along the path.

Mike Phelps stated that according to the deed, such would be permitted.

Alana Albee stated cedar signs are being considered in addition to a leaflet; noting scavenger hunts would be included in the program.

Kate Nesbit questioned the width of the trail.

Alana Albee stated such has not yet been determined.

Steve Wingate recommended a two-person width for safety reasons.

Alana Albee stated the width of an existing path on the property is two-person.

Larry Gil questioned whether the Museum owns any other property on Mirror Lake.

Mike Phelps stated the Town of Wolfboro owns the Museum property.

Larry Gil asked Ms. Albee if she is related to Selectman Albee.

Alana Albee replied yes and noted the Town of Wolfboro owns the vista, building and woods behind the Museum.

The Commission agreed to further discuss the proposal at the 11/20/17 Conservation Commission meeting.

Steve Wingate noted the Commission's role is to provide an environmental recommendation to the BOS rather than a position.

Larry Gil stated an issue Dusty Davies brought up related to the original beneficiaries and the number of property owners that were in agreement regarding privacy. He stated Ms. Davies questions whether changing such would change the beneficiaries understanding of the agreement.

Steve Wingate stated such is not within the Commission's purview.

It was moved by Nancy Piper and seconded Kate Nesbit by to adjourn the November 13 , 2016 Tuftonboro Conservation Commission meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Hendrickson

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