

# Conservation Commission Minutes 10/09/18

## TOWN OF HOLDERNESS CONSERVATION COMMISSION Regular Meeting Minutes October 9, 2018

**ber Present:** Anne Packard, Acting Chair; Jenny Evans; Ben Amsden

**bers Not Present:** Larry Spencer, Chairman, Jacquelyn Jewell, Shelagh Connelly, Ex-Officio

**Present:** Linda Levy, Landuse Assistant

**Order:** A. Packard called the meeting to order at 4:05PM. A quorum was present.

**OVAL OF MINUTES:** The Commission approved the minutes of the September 11, 2018.

**MAIL CHECK:** A. Packard went through the mail which included a number of Wetland Permit applications and approvals, and a reminder that it time for re-inspection of the Tree Farms.

### TEMS:

- Linda Levy was introduced as the new Landuse Assistant.
- Status of Northern Pass—no word yet as to what will happen with respect to their petition to the NH Supreme Court
- Status of trail work on the Pilote Forest.
- Trails have all been cut and signage has been put up. Rotten bridges have been removed and new ones built to replace them. Additional bridging has been placed in appropriate sections of the trail. Picnic bench at kiosk has been rebuilt. Larry is working on kiosk insert and will have that done before the open house.
- Monitoring reports (Please get these done before the end of October). When you have completed them please pass on to Linda, so she can send them to the rest of the members of the commission for their viewing.
- Jenny has hers done, she will review it, and then send to Linda.
- Status of the RFPs for Howe Forest and the Pilote Forest
- RFP was sent out to five separate environmental consultants. They were also placed on the NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists home page. I have answered inquiries from at least three different firms, so I assume they will be sending in a proposal.
- Two RFP's were submitted (FB Environmental out of Portsmouth and Stony Ridge out of Alton).
- Cost

- FB Environmental (\$12,480 for Pilote; \$8,880 for Howe)
- Stony Ridge (\$11,681 for Pilote; \$8,631 for Howe)
- Larry needs to see them to being the decision process of which RFP to choose
- The rest of the Commission needs time to review the RFP's
- Questions brought up – does the Commission go with the lowest price?; do they look at the company's qualifications?; should the Commission do 1 property this year and 1 property next year?; what is the evaluation criteria?; is there an evaluation criteria?; if not, should an evaluation criteria be created?; what is the procedure to get approval?
- The decision was tabled until Larry gets back
- Checking Account—Were we able to put those funds into the existing Conservation Fund? No one knew the answer. Larry has volunteered to donate a small sum, so the Commission doesn't have to pay the monthly fee.
- What was the response of the Planning Board to our suggestions for the Natural Resources chapter? The Planning Board is still reviewing it.
- NH House bills—The governor's veto of the biomass bill was over-ridden. The net metering bill missed by 17 votes of being over-ridden.

#### ITEMS:

- Setting up the open house for folks to see the new trail system on the Pilote Forest. In discussions with Tom Hahn, he is available on October the 27<sup>th</sup> or November the 10<sup>th</sup>. If you pick the 27<sup>th</sup>, then someone must take responsibility for getting the news releases out to the local papers (Record Enterprise and Laconia papers) as I won't be back until the 20th.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> was chosen. Jenny will put together a news release.
- Tom Hahn is arranging for a person to mow the open field on the Pilote Forest sometime in October. The mower will send the bill directly to the town in c/o the Commission.
- Larry talked with Barbara Richter (Executive Director of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions) about her attending a meeting of the area CCs. He is thinking of the second or third week of November. What are the thoughts of the Commissioners as to what night? June Hammond Rowan, head honcho of the PSU Center for the Environment, would also like to meet with the regional CCs to explain what's up at the college with respect to the Center for the Environment.
- The Commission recommends either November 8 or November 15 as possible nights for the area CC meeting.
- Review and selection of the companies to do the Natural Resource Inventories—Larry suggested that the Commission make up a checklist that includes all the items that need to be done, plus the quoted price. He suggested ranking each one from 1 to 5 as to suitability and having an entry related to distance from plots as this might be useful in determining ease of access for sampling dates.

- Because the Planning Board is still reviewing the inventory, nothing was done with this item.

#### **Up Coming Meetings**

- NHACC—5<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 in Pembroke—Larry encouraged the members to try to attend as the meeting is very worthwhile. He knows the keynote speaker; he is the author of a recent book on comparing Thoreau's dataset and modern data sets with respect to things affected by climate changing (flowering, bird arrival, etc.). Not sure what he will talk about on that Saturday. The earlier you register, the cheaper the price. You can go to the NHACC website to register.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:45PM.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Levy  
Landuse Assistant