

TOWN OF HOLDERNESS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, 8 October 2019

4:00 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present: Larry Spencer, Chairman; Anne Packard, Brian Gagnon, Shelagh Connelly, Jacquelyn Jewell, Ben Amsden

Members Not Present: Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio

Staff Present: Linda Levy, Land Use Boards Assistant

Call to Order: Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:09pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Commission approved the minutes of June 11, 2019

Approved as distributed

MAIL CHECK:

1. DES – Summer 2019 Newsletter
2. NH Tree Farm Program – Inspection notification (Larry will contact them to do the inspection)
3. NH Association of Conservation Commissions – Annual Meeting & Conference notice (Sat., 11/2)
4. NHTOA – Strategic Plan Progress Report
5. American Forest Foundation – 2019 Survey of Woodland Owners and Enthusiasts
6. NHTOA – Landowner Workshop flyer (Shelagh will share with the Road Agent and the Fire Department)
7. NH Association of Conservation Commissions – Membership dues

Motion: “To pay our dues to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.”

Motion: Shelagh Connelly

Second: Anne Packard

Discussion: None

Motion passed: 6-0-0-1

OLD ITEMS:

1. Fall tasks on properties
 - a. Ben has walked the Howe Forest
 - i. The benches are ready to be placed at the Howe Forest
 - ii. Ben and Larry will put them out
 - b. Brian will contact the SLA to see the they have been out on the Pilote and Howe trails for maintenance
2. Northern Pass
3. Monitoring reports for 2019
 - a. Larry did Crawford
 - i. Shared that he had trouble finding the pins
 - b. Anne will do Howe
4. Additional work of Kevin Ryan on properties
 - a. Larry thought Kevin was going to make a small parking lot on the Howe property, but he has been busy
5. NHDES applications for waterfront property work (I signed off on this proposal)

NEW ITEMS:

1. Next steps on the Howe Town Forest Easement—Roger Larochelle came to the September meeting and talked with the members who were there (the meeting did not have a quorum) and described what actions need to take place and when they need to take place. The Squam Lakes Conservation Society do not want to hold the easement. A Declaration of Charitable Trust could be proposed, voted on at Town Meeting, and if passed, the forest would be owned by the Town, under the control of the Conservation Commission. Larry would like the survey done in the next fiscal year. A warrant article would be needed to ask for the money. Larry will ask Doug to come talk to the Commission about surveying the property. Kevin is going to delineate the DPW portion of the property.
2. Additional updates on student work on DDT in Squam Lake, Bennet Cove and thoughts about Loons on Squam Lake. The grad student had some problems with the procedures, but the samples don't match what they thought they would find.
3. Update on Squam Lakes Conservation Society proposal for NRI on White Oak Pond. They got money to do the natural resource inventory.
4. Update on Livermore Falls work. All of the things that were going to be done could not be done because of policies in Concord and personnel changes/issues. There have been no improvements to date.
5. Update on the Ox Bow Initiative. Larry is still working on this. Behind the Irving Gas station are Jersey barriers to prevent vehicles from getting on the road. The Rotary and mountain bikers have helped clean it up. The current owners are not interested in selling their portion of the property. Larry and Chris will plan to talk with PSU and the Holderness School.
6. Question about what should be done with respect to the growth of Japanese Knotweed along town roads. Anne reported that there were none on Seven Pines Rd. There is a lot on Rt. 175 past Owl Brook Rd. going toward Rt. 3. A mixture of vinegar and water poured into the hollow stem. More will be considered next spring.
7. Follow up on the pond/dam at the golf course next to Mt. Prospect Road. Pictures reported on the progress; it looks like they did a fine job.
8. Follow up on the NRI project. Amanda did a botanical survey of both properties during 2 of the seasons. They will complete the other 2 seasons. Larry will talk with them to schedule a seminar on the project.
9. Follow up on the elm tree at the Holderness Central School. The tree has been cut down.
10. Larry went to the International Arborists meeting in Springfield to learn about iTree software and the Liberty Elms. There are other varieties that are more resistant to Dutch Elm disease (Princeton Elm, Jefferson Elm). The tree can be planted in the same plot. Larry will talk with Doug McLane about a planting timetable.
11. Jackie reported that her son is color-blind and could not recognize the color markings on the trails. Markings should be changed to shapes instead of colors (blacks and reds could be used). Jackie will send Larry the link to a website that has info on color-blindness.
12. Larry asked for a volunteer to look into having a sign made to go at the entrance to the Howe and Pilote Forest. Shelagh will call the State to see about signage.
13. The Pilote Forest field should be mowed annually to keep the field open.
14. Larry will build the roofs for the signs.

Up Coming Meetings

1. 20 September meeting on the Plymouth Common on Climate Change – there were a lot of people there.
2. NH Association of Conservation Commissions—02 November – Larry is going and encouraged the rest of the Commission to go. He shared a bit about the content of the event.
3. Watershed and local food conference, 17 and 18 October at Gunstock (17th) and Margate (18th), respectively.
4. Northern Pass celebration at the Rocks in Bethlehem on the 13th of October.

Next Meeting: Will be one week earlier – November 5th. (Anne will not be able to be at the meeting.)

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.