

# **TOWN OF HOLDERNESS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Tuesday, 14 January 2020

4:00 P.M.

## **Minutes**

### **Members Present:**

Larry Spencer, Chair; Brian Gagnon, Jacquelyn Jewell, Ben Amsden, Shelagh Connelly, Anne Packard,

**Members Not Present:** Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio

**Guests:** Grace Callahan (from Lakes Region Conservation Corps)

**Staff Present:** Linda Levy, Land Use Boards Assistant

**Call to Order:** Larry Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Commission approved the minutes of November 5, 2019

### **Approved as distributed**

1. Timber Crier Magazine
2. NHTOA – Call for Awards
3. NHTOA – Annual Fund
4. NHTOA – Membership renewal notice
  - Motion: “To renew the membership.”
  - Motion: J. Jewell
  - Second: B. Gagnon
  - Discussion: None (Linda will give it to Amy)
  - Motion Passes 5-0-0-2 (Anne came in after the vote)
5. American Forest Association – request for donation
6. NHDES - Newsletter

### **OLD ITEMS:**

1. Fall tasks on properties
  - a. Larry asked Ben if he moved the bench at the Howe Town Forest; he suggesting putting it on a sled; Brian will help Ben
2. Monitoring reports for 2019
  - a. Larry will put the reports on the agenda for the February meeting
3. Contact with SLA concerning Americorp trail work
  - a. Larry talked to EB about Americorp doing the trail work; he has not responded; there is a question of whether they can use chain saws
  - b. Anne talked with someone who wants to volunteer; suggested that she add signage

### **NEW ITEMS:**

1. Vote of warrant article
  - a. Larry said the Highway Dept driveway has never been surveyed

- b. Declaration of Public Trust has been suggested as the way to label the property instead of an easement so that it includes public uses and the same things as an easement
- c. Select Board wants to know why it needs to be surveyed (because the property has not been anchored)
- d. The Highway Dept parcel is on the worst 4-5 acres of the entire plot
- e. Motion: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to survey the Howe Town Forest and to further authorize the withdrawal of the sum indicated from the Town Forest Fund. No additional funds will be raised by taxation."

Motion: S. Connelly

Second: J. Jewell

Discussion: Larry will bring a 1-page explanation to Town Meeting

Motion Passes: 6-0-0-1

2. Contact with Frank Yerkes

- a. Larry will contact Frank about surveying the Howe Forest

3. Mowing of the open area in the Pilote Forest

- a. The mowing is done
- b. After one more annual mowing, should be able to go a bi-annual mowing

4. Invasive species in Town

- a. There are some invasive species (barberry and knotweed) on both Pilote and Howe properties; might consider have people or the Highway Dept go in with backhoes and dig them up; a project for the spring

5. Request from Pemi River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) for funds

- a. The CC has been asked if we would be willing to contribute to their budget to help them function as a LAC; we have been contributing in the past; they protect the river; they are a volunteer organization; the money gets used for the website and "keeping the lights on"

Motion: "To donate the same amount of money as in 2019." (Linda needs an invoice)

Motion: J. Jewell

Second: B. Gagnon

Discussion: We might give them some input about their projects; Larry will ask one of their members to come to a CC meeting.

Motion Passes: 6-0-0-1

6. Budget for 2020-21

Motion: "To approve the budget."

Motion: B. Amsden

Second: S. Connelly

Discussion: None

Motion Passes: 6-0-0-1

7. Annual Report for Town Report (Larry sent this before the meeting)

8. Discussion of draft NRIs

- a. Continued to February meeting; part of the contract is to make a public presentation (Larry will talk to them about that); part of the contract is to lead a hike through the properties

9. Spring Schedule

- a. Winter walk in Pilote or Howe if there is enough snow
- b. Get HCS students (middle school aged students) out to the forests to introduce them to the Town properties – perhaps coordinate with LRCC (J. Jewell agreed to work with Grace); maybe get Jess Datile at PSU to see if PSU students might be interested as well

- c. Get SLA to advertise the forests to get more people hiking them

10. Other items as needed

- a. NH Assoc of Conservation Commission will have their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year; question comes up – what do people get out of the membership; Barbara (chair) tracks what is happening in the legislature and speaks on behalf of conservation; wants to know if we, as a Commission, need anything that isn't covered by anything else; suggestions – (1) would like info on conservation issues in the legislature, (2) what are other commissions doing – positive and negative, (3) monitor NH DES website to let us know if anything is going on locally, (4) advocacy during legislative sessions, (5) organize a meeting with all local commissions where Barbara speaks
- b. Oxbow property – Lisa Doner (PSU) is interested in working with the CC to make it a conservation easement; the snowmobile club has a sign on the trail; the bridge is in good shape
- c. Larry, as part of the River's Committee, reviewed legislative policy decisions; is working to restore a bill that was passed on (1) clear cutting, (2) PFAS. (3) Biomass, (4) Fish and Game employees – only need a trapper's, fishing, hunter's license to be hired
- d. B. Amsden asked if anyone was going to work with the people who are encroaching on the Pilote to stop doing it (M. Capone was asked)
- e. Motorized bikes in forests – need to be an agenda item about E-Bikes and if they should be allowed in our forests; need to have policies on it – see if they are in the forest plans (Larry will check)
- f. Membership on CC – must be a resident of Holderness

**UP-COMING MEETINGS:**

- 1. PSU Water and Watershed Conference—March

**ADJOURNMENT:** Adjourned at 5:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Levy  
Landuse Boards Assistant