

TOWN OF HOLDERNESS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, 10 March 2020

4:00 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present:

Larry Spencer, Chair; Anne Packard, Ben Amsden, Shelagh Connelly, Woodie Laverack, Ex Officio

Members Not Present: Brian Gagnon, Jacquelyn Jewell

Guests: Iain MacLeod, Bob Snelling, Bill Nesheim

Staff Present: Linda Levy, Land Use Boards Assistant

Call to Order: L. Spencer called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Commission approved the minutes of 11 February 2020 as distributed.

MAIL CHECK:

1. NH Timber Harvesting Council Spring Program Newsletter
2. Timber Crier magazine
3. NHTOA workshop flyer

OLD ITEMS:

1. Bench on Howe Town Forest Property – Ben is waiting for the snow melt to put the bench out
2. Plans for Earth Day Celebration on the 25th of April – the CC will host a work party to repair trails from 19-12 on the Pilote and Howe properties
3. Handout for Town Meeting on “Why do we want to resurvey the Howe Town Forest?”
L. Spencer will either send it to the Commission members before meeting or bring to meeting. L. Spencer will read the information about the reasoning for surveying the Howe property if there are questions raised at the Town meeting.
4. Possibility of FB Environmental doing a Science Pub in November

NEW ITEMS:

1. Discussion with Iain MacLeod re: wetlands variance for Squam Lakes Natural Science Center.
 - a. I. MacLeod explained the plan, the ZBA will hear the case at tonight’s meeting. They are adding about 150 sq.ft. inside the wetland setback. Suggestion from L. Spencer – talk with R. Van de Poll re: putting a swale to carry excrement away. I. MacLeod shared that best practices encourage bare ground.

MOTION: "To approve and support the Science Center plan."

Motion: S. Connelly

Second: B. Amsden

Discussion: None

Motion Passes: 5-yes 0-no 0-abstention 2-absent

2. Discussion with B. Snelling (Planning Board Chair) as to what language should be in the town regulations for wetlands (should it be based on biology/geology or with reference to a map).
 - a. B. Snelling read the definition of a wetland and zoning ordinance 400.11 from the zoning ordinances. The prime wetlands via satellite and the prime wetlands via mapping do not show the same things. Comments/questions included:
 - Soil surveys should validate the wetlands
 - If the wetland is determined by two different sets of coordinates, they appear that the location of the wetland is hard to determine
 - Who should pay for the determination of where the wetlands are?
 - What is the difference between prime and other wetlands?
 - Perhaps the CC should make this our 5-year project.
 - L. Spencer prefers the biologic/geologic mapping.
 - Make sure that new homes on properties be reviewed for setbacks from wetlands. The landowner is responsible for getting the survey.
 - Use the town's website to determine the two layers of wetland location.
 - Re-survey the Town's wetlands by adding it to next year's budget; present at the 2021 Town meeting.
 - Use national wetlands inventory
 - Upgrade the Town's official wetlands maps
 - Call the maps "layers", not maps
 - b. L. Spencer will talk to the person who maintains the map part of our website to upgrade the maps.
 - c. L. Levy will send ordinance 400.11 to the commissioners.
 - d. Action item: the CC will work to upgrade the map and label what it so people will know what they are looking at.
3. Alteration of Terrain Permit from PSU for new football field
 - a. L. Spencer shared his research on turf fields saying that there is zinc in run-off and the turf itself has PFAS in it.
 - b. A suggestion was made to ask Lisa Doner at PSU to do a pre and post study on run-off
4. Resignation of Jacque Jewell
 - a. W. Laverack will send J. Jewell a resolution of thanks from the Select Board
 - b. B. Nesheim would like to serve on the Commission (L. Spencer will send a formal letter to the Select Board.)

5. Spring Schedule
6. Other items as needed
 - a. Hubbard Brook did a study on ice on trees and compared it to the 97-98 ice storm. They found no nitrates concentrations compared to the concentrations from the storm.

UP-COMING MEETINGS:

1. PSU Water and Watershed Conference—13 March at PSU
2. Saving Special Places Conference, Prospect Mountain High School, Alton—04 April

ADJOURNMENT: Adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully, Submitted,

Linda Levy
Land Use Boards Assistant