



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, January 21, 2016 6:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 2/29/2016**

I. Roll Call

Present: Steve Wood, Gary Dickerman, Dianne Harlow, Scott Magnuson, Kim Gogan

Absent:

(Note: Agenda items were taken out of order to accommodate guest, Jim Barker.)

- II. Election of Officers.** Officers will be elected annually at the first regular meeting in January. Officers shall consist of chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer.
(See below)

III. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

A. December 17, 2015

Corrections:

(a) Add "Time Out" in front of "Americana Grill"

(b) Add the words "the berries from" to the sentence, "He praised Mr. Wood for removing *the berries from*" the large stand of bittersweet.

(c) Change "Mr. Wood said he would bring it to the attention of City Council" to "Mr. Wood said it *should be brought*" to the attention of City Council.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the December 17th meeting as amended.

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Mr. Magnuson

Vote: Unanimous in favor

IV. Finance Report

There was no report available for this month as the Finance Director is currently out of the office. It should be available for the next meeting.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Old Business

F. Conservation Plan – next steps

Jim Barker, chair of the Cornish, NH Conservation Commission, was present to assist in the discussion of the Conservation Plan. Mr. Barker said the Cornish Commission looked at each chapter of their Natural Resources Inventory and made a list of eight topics that were of the most interest and seemed most achievable. They took their Inventory to Town Meeting and presented it with the maps and sold 40 copies (at cost) to residents. This

generated more interest and “buy-in”. They then took the list of eight topics to the Planning Board and Select Board and asked what these boards would like most to see the Commission work on. From these discussions, two main topics emerged – creation of a water plan, and education. The Commission split into two groups to work on each of these topics. Mr. Barker was in the water plan group. He said they attempted to create what they thought would be a water plan, but felt they didn’t know how to do it. The “plan” ended up being 1 ½ pages long – a simple plan to annually test the water quality of the streams in the town, doing 2-3 streams each spring. They will create a baseline of data. They are most interested in the effect of the farmland on the Cornish Flats that lie over a large aquifer there. They are working with a lab in Lebanon. Mr. Barker will be writing some grants to cover the cost of the lab work. The education group hosts several talks each year and posts educational materials at kiosks around the Town. They have had talks on ticks and invasive species. Periodically the Commission puts out educational material on the town’s listserv. They are also working on conservation easements for lands adjacent to Corbin Park.

To summarize, Mr. Barker said that the Conservation Plan carries out the objectives of the Resource Inventory. Pick what you can do and do it. Keep it simple and doable.

The Commission thanked Mr. Barker for his presentation.

The Commission felt that they have already made a start on the Conservation Plan with the work on invasives at Moody Park. It just needs to be documented.

- A. Friends of Moody Park – update
Parks and Recreation Department Director, Mark Brislin, sent a draft public notice for the public forum to the Commission for comment. The Commission changed the proposed date to February 9, 2016 with February 11th as a back-up date.

The Commission discussed various ideas for increasing public awareness of the Commission and its works including social media, CCTV, the eTicker, and the City website.

Election of Officers

Nomination: To elect the current slate of officers.

Made by: Mr. Wood

Discussion: Mrs. Harlow and Mr. Dickerman accept the nomination.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- B. Invasive Species in Moody Park – update
This was discussed earlier.
- C. Bobby Woodman Sign
This is still a work in progress.
- D. Update on Judy Well’s retaining wall repair project
There is no new information on this.
- E. Update on Rail Trail R.O.W. monumentation – update

Mr. Wood suggested that the Commission first walk the trail with the maps we now have in hand to see what landmarks may already be present and then decide how best to proceed. It was agreed to invite Wayne McCutcheon to the walk.

Mr. Dickerman said that this may be part of the Conservation Plan as well.

F. Conservation Plan – next steps

Mr. Dickerman said he has spoken with Jeff Littleton, author of the Natural Resources Inventory, to see if he would be willing to help with the Conservation Plan. Mr. Littleton said he would be available on a Saturday of the Commission's choosing. He charges \$60 an hour.

After much discussion, the Commission set the date for their Conservation Plan workshop on April 9th with a backup date of April 10th. The workshop will run from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the Community Center.

Barry Conservation Camp

The dates of this summer's camp sessions have been set, incorporated into the Commission's annual letter to the school children, been approved by Dr. McGoodwin, and emailed to the school population. Mrs. Harlow had set the date for applications to the Commission on February 12th so the Commission could decide on scholarships at their regular meeting on February 18th. The date of the February meeting, however, was changed to February 29th due to scheduling conflicts. (The date of the March meeting was also changed to March 31st.)

VII. New Business

VIII. Communications

A. NHACC – annual dues

Motion: To pay NH Association of Conservation Commissions annual dues in the amount of \$419 (invoice #1374) for the 2016 year.

Made by: Mr. Magnuson **Second:** Mr. Wood

Vote: Unanimous in favor

B. Society of American Foresters – winter meeting

IX. Other Business

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Wood **Second:** Mr. Magnuson

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse