



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING**

Thursday, January 3, 2019 11:00 AM
Visitor Center, 14 North Street, Claremont NH

MINUTES

Approved 1/17/2019

Present: Gary Dickerman, Steve Wood, Scott Magnuson, Eileen Skowronski

Absent: Kim Gogan

(NOTE: In November, 2018, the Commission had received notification from the Barry Conservation Camp that it was time to reserve spots for children that would be sponsored for the 2019 camping season. At that time, the Commission had been uncertain as to whether or not they wished to continue sponsoring children as they had been doing for many years. They decided to gauge public interest by posting an announcement on the Commission's Facebook page, asking for a letter of interest from anyone whose child might like to go to the camp. The Commission received letters of interest for five children.)

Mr. Dickerman called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM and stated that the purpose of this special meeting was for the Commission to discuss its practice of sponsoring camperships to the Barry Conservation Camp and to decide if the practice will continue. Mr. Dickerman asked each member present to voice their opinion.

Mr. Dickerman said that NHMA stated in a recent webinar that using conservation funds for sponsoring camperships falls into a gray area, meaning it is unclear as to whether the funds can be spent on such things or not. Mr. Dickerman felt that conservation funds are supposed to be spent on things that will directly benefit the city, and he felt it is difficult to see how camperships demonstrate such a direct benefit.

Ms. Skowronski felt that the camping experience plants a long-term seed in each child that participates, a seed that could influence their choice of education and career toward conservation. She felt the sponsorship money is well-spent, because the outcome could be of benefit to the city, even if we can't see it right away.

Mr. Wood cited the Commission's unpredictable revenue stream and felt the Commission needed to balance its projects with its income.

Mr. Magnuson asked how gray the gray area is and who enforces the statute governing the spending of conservation funds. It is difficult to make a decision on how to proceed when the statute may be interpreted differently by different people.

After additional discussion, the consensus of those present was to sponsor one campership for the 2019 season, and then look into raising funds specifically for future camperships.

Motion: To provide one campership to the Barry Conservation Camp for this upcoming season, choosing from those that have not previously attended.

Made by: Mr. Magnuson **Second:** Ms. Skowronski

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The names of the four children who had not been to camp were placed in a bowl. A single name, Jason Demars, was pulled from the bowl by Eagle Times reporter, Glynis Hart, who happened to be present at the meeting.

Mr. Dickerman asked that the topic of fundraising be added to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

I. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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