



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, December 15, 2016 6:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 1/19/2017**

I. Roll Call

Present: Gary Dickerman, Dianne Harlow, Kim Gogan, Scott Magnuson, Eileen Skowronski
Absent: Steve Wood, Nick Koloski

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

a. October 20, 2016

Motion: To accept the minutes of the October 20th meeting as presented.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

b. November 18, 2016

Correction: Change “Magnusen” to “Magnuson”

Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 18th meeting as corrected.

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Ms. Gogan

Vote: Unanimous in favor

c. November 29, 2016

Correction: Change “Magnusen” to “Magnuson”

Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 29th meeting as corrected.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report

a. November 2016

The Commission reviewed the financial statement for November 2016. Ms. Harlow said she had not purchased the mulch that the Commission had authorized her to. The money was not spent.

No action was taken.

IV. Public Comment

No one was present.

V. Old Business

a. Barry Conservation Camp Sponsors

No applications have been received. Mrs. Harlow will ask Dr. McGoodwin to re-send the announcement (with some urgency as sessions fill up quickly) to the school parents.

b. Update on Winter Street and Arrowhead cuts (by request of D. Harlow)

DPW Director Scott Sweet updated the Commission on the Winter Street and Arrowhead forest cuts.

Arrowhead

Not much has been done since the onsite public meeting. The project is on hold indefinitely.

Winter Street

The contract is with Dennis McKenney. He and City Solicitor Jane Taylor have come to an agreement on some minor changes in the contract language. We are awaiting his signature, to be followed by the City Manager's signature.

He is hoping to start on Winter Street after the holidays. The logging plan has been changed to come closer to compliance with the Forest Management Plan ("the Plan"). The cut is closer to a third (as the Plan calls for). There will be no cutting on the south end of the parcel (as far as the power-line easement). Dennis will cut 100K BF of pine, 2K BF of maple; 1K BF of hemlock; 2K BF of white ash; 2K BF of red maple or other hardwood; 1500 tons of chips. There will be small alleyways to the pine stands so it will be more of a selective cutting than a clear cut. The project will be closely monitored.

Dennis said he found some barberry (invasive), but he is confident that the small hardwoods and seedlings from the cuts will out-compete it.

Dennis has marked a 20-40 ft buffer around all of the wetlands.

The landing will be on the Claremont Arms property. There will be some cutting on the Arms' property at their request.

Dennis will videotape the project for educational purposes and to document the condition of the forest before and after the thinning.

The estimated revenue will be around \$16,000. He said we are not in it for the money, but to be good stewards of the forest and for future generations.

Transfer Station, Rice Reservoir & Airport

The transfer station and airport cuts are complete. The transfer station had some "candlestick pines" that were low vigor and hazardous. Some trees were cleared at the end of one of the runways. At Rice Reservoir, a new spillway needs to be constructed, so the trees were cut at that site. A neighbor to the property asked Dennis to cut some of his trees – it is easily confused with the Rice project. Revenues generated were \$13,800 for Rice and \$8300-\$8500 for the transfer station and airport. Airport revenues go to the fire department; transfer station revenues go to DPW; Rice revenues go to the water department; Winter Street will go to the Recreation Department (even though Mr. Sweet will be controlling the cut).

Hopkinton Forestry will be doing the cut on Winter Street.

There were no further questions.

VI. New Business

a. Rail Trail

Mrs. Harlow said she will be applying – as a member of the ATV club - to Yamaha and Polaris for grant funds to survey the portion of the rail trail between Home Depot and the bridge. The

maximum grant amount is \$10,000. There are three surveys already done on this section – in front of Home Depot, Runnings and the Demoulas plaza, however there is no known monumentation on the ground. Monumentation will hopefully be included in the new survey.

VII. **Communications**

- a. The *Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification* forms for the Rice Reservoir and Winter Street cuts have been received by DES. DES has given approval to start work on both projects.

VIII. **Other Business**

- a. **Natural Resources Chapter or the Master Plan**

The Master Plan Steering Committee had asked for clarification of item #1b. The Commission agreed to change the language as shown below:

Objective 1.2: Adopt management practices that support indigenous habitats and prevent fragmentation so that wildlife can migrate for seasonal food and reproductive needs.

Actions

1. Unfragmented Lands and Habitat Connectivity

- a. Include protection and/or creation of wildlife corridors in development regulations and in City highway policy
- b. ~~Work to understand~~ **Consider** wildlife travel patterns when creating wildlife corridors; adjust transportation patterns to reduce road mortality
- c. Protect against fragmentation of existing large blocks of undeveloped lands.
- d. Work with DPW to ensure appropriate culverts are installed where aquatic travel patterns are known.

IX. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Ms. Gogan

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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