



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Monday, February 29, 2016 6:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 3/31/2016**

Mrs. Harlow called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

I. Roll Call

Present: Dianne Harlow, Gary Dickerman, Stephen Wood, Kim Gogan

Absent: Scot Magnuson, Nick Koloski

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting

a. January 21, 2016

Motion: To accept the minutes of the January 21, 2016 meeting as written.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report

There was no finance report to review.

IV. Public Comment

V. Old Business

a. Friends of Moody Park – update

No update available.

b. Invasive Species in Moody Park – update

No update available.

c. Bobby Woodman Sign

No update available.

d. Update on Judy Well's retaining wall repair project

No update available.

e. Update on Rail Trail R.O.W. monumentation – update

Mrs. Harlow said her ATV group had sent emails to state representatives and legislators asking for movement on the Rail Trail waiver, as the window for grant opportunities is quickly closing. It is the hope that these emails will spur movement forward.

f. Conservation Plan – next steps

No action taken.

g. Barry Conservation Camp Sponsorships

Mrs. Harlow has received two applications for sponsorships. The Commission will make the awards at their next meeting.

VI. New Business

a. Forest Management Plan – Arrowhead (Map 144, Lot 10)

Victor St. Pierre, assistant director at the Department of Public Works, discussed upcoming forest management projects to take place on City-owned lands. He presented the proposed list of projects for this year:

1. Removal of the older pines at the transfer station (high priority)
2. 26 acres on Winter Street – limited time offer to use the Claremont Arms property for access and staging
3. Rice Reservoir – logging to be combined with work on the spillway
4. Arrowhead – combine with Parks and Recreation department’s trail work
5. White Water Reservoir – approximately 480 acres to be cut
6. Cat Hole Road area – perhaps next winter

Forestry management has fallen behind the optimum schedule outlined in the 2008 Forestry Management Plan which results in decline in lumber quality and forest health. The City would like to make up for lost time and get onto a 20-year cycle. Challenges to scheduling these operations range from access to weather to wildlife needs.

Mr. St. Pierre asked for the endorsement of the Commission before proceeding to the City Council. The Commission acknowledged that the work is necessary to enhance and maintain overall forest health and saw no problems with the proposed projects.

Dennis McKenny of New England Forestry Consultants, Inc., forester under contract with the City, said that the City’s forest resources are suffering from “benign neglect”. He said 14 of 15 projects put out to bid have been completed. Two thousand loads have been transported over City roads with relatively few issues. He said wildlife awareness is a part of what they do in planning and conducting their projects. He said his company’s work is “FSC” designated and is subject to third party audit. He creates and publishes on YouTube videos of the City logging projects to enhance public awareness and education about forestry management. He stressed that these projects are *management* operations, not *mining* operations.

Motion: To approve the outline of forestry management projects as presented.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

b. Conservation Commission activity report

Mrs. Harlow has submitted the annual activity report to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

VII. **Communications**

- a. **Barry Conservation Camp**
- b. **Saving Special Places Conferences**

VIII. **Other Business**

- a. **Hannah Putnam, Americorps Vista Volunteer**

Ms. Putnam asked the Commission to create a public service project for approximately 80-90 Stevens High School sophomore students for April 15th. The Commission discussed several ideas including invasive species work in Moody Park and clean-up at Arrowhead. No definitive action was taken. The Commission will discuss this further at the next meeting.

- b. **Land Adjacent to Moody Park**

It has come to the attention of the Commission that the parcel of land directly to the west (and abutting) Moody Park belongs to the City, but is NOT a part of Moody Park. This parcel is on a list of City-owned parcels recently discussed at the City Council meeting and could be vulnerable to purchase by private parties. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of having the City annex the parcel to Moody Park. (It was noted that there are extensive recreation trails already on this parcel that connect to trails in the Park.)

Motion: To encourage the City Council to annex the westerly abutting parcel to Moody Park.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

- c. **Tire Collection – Friday, April 22, 2016**

The Commission supports the idea, but is unable to contribute manpower to assist.

- d. **Master Plan Public Forum**

The Commission created a series of polling questions to be posed to participants at the Master Plan Public Forum on March 3rd. The results will assist in updating the Natural Resources chapter of the Master Plan.

IX. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Respectfully submitted,
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