



Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2014

Approved July 17, 2014

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

I. Roll Call

Present: Dianne Harlow, Stephen Wood, Cortney Nichols, Gary Dickerman, Nicholas Koloski
City Staff: deForest Bearse, Resource Coordinator

II. Review of Minutes of preceding meeting – April 17, 2014

Corrections:

Page 2 – change Tim “Hern” to “Hernon”

Page 2 – change “with the Department of Exports” to “at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center”

Page 3 – change “chairman” to “Director” following Mark Brislin’s name

Motion: to accept the minutes of April 17, 2014 with corrections.

Made by: Mr. Koloski **Second:** Mr. Dickerman **Vote:** unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report

There was no finance report.

IV. Public Comment

Ken Harlow asked about gates for the Bobby Woodman trail. The Commission had no information to share. He also asked if any action has been taken to get street-crossing signs on the trail. Chairman Wood said he would look into it.

V. Old Business

a. 2014 membership renewal in NH Association of Conservation Commissions

This item was tabled until Mr. Coates arrived at the meeting.

b. 2014 Conservation Camp sponsorships

Three of the six applicants will be attending Barry Conservation Camp. Mrs. Harlow will follow up with the remaining three applicants to determine their choices.

c. Update on OHRV use of Rail Trail

City Council voted last night to submit a waiver of the grant agreement to allow OHRV to use the rail trail. The Council also voted to suspend its annual authorization of OHRV use of the trail until the waiver is granted.

VI. New Business

a. Visit from Nik Coates, Executive Director, NHACC

Mr. Coates had been invited to the meeting to present the purpose, functions, and services of the NHACC. NHACC provides technical assistance, support, legal guidance, education, website design and grant opportunities to its members. The annual meeting is held on the first Saturday of November. Free field trainings will be offered for spring, summer, and fall. Mr. Coates is also actively engaged at the State legislature, following and testifying on legislation of interest to conservation commissions. Mr. Coates stated that a “successful” conservation commission:

- Has a written inventory of its town’s natural resources
- Has a written conservation plan
- Has some percentage of land use tax funding
- Has its NRI and conservation plan incorporated into the town’s master plan
- Is actively raising land protection funds
- Works with landowners on conservation and preservation issues
- Holds easements
- Has good administrative practices including:
 - Written bylaws
 - Conflict of interest policy
 - Active membership
 - Regular meeting schedule.

Following Mr.Coates’ presentation, the Commission returned to item (V)(1) – 2014 membership renewal.

Motion: to renew membership in the NH Association of Conservation Commissions

Made by: Mr. Dickerman **Second:** Ms.Nichols **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

b. Update on Green-Up Day

Mrs. Harlow asked for authorization to purchase 10-15 bags of mulch to put on the flower gardens she planted last year at the entrances to the Bobby Woodman Trail near the Community Center.

Motion: to authorize spending up to \$100 for Bobby Woodman Trail entrance improvements.

Made by: Mr.Koloski **Second:** Mr. Dickerman **Vote:** Unanimous in favor.

VII. Communications

a. Rail Trail emails

Chairman Wood has received an email and twenty-nine pages of attached documents from Jim Sullivan regarding OHRV use of the rail trail. Mr. Woods said he would make the emails available to anyone who wished to review them, but that their content seems moot in light of the Council’s recent votes.

b. CT River Recreation Management Plan

All members have received copies of the 2013 update.

c. Other

The Commission agreed to reschedule the June 19th meeting to June 12th to accommodate a scheduling conflict of Chairman Wood.

- d.** Future agenda item – implementation of the Rail Trail plan.
- VIII.** Adjournment
Motion: to adjourn the meeting
Made by: Mr. Dickerman Second: Mrs. Harlow Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:26PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
deForest Bearse