



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, September 17, 2015, 6:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 10/16/2015**

Chairperson Harlow called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

I. Roll Call

Present: Stephen Wood, Gary Dickerman, Dianne Harlow, Scott Magnuson

Absent: Kim Gogan, Nicholas Koloski, Cortney Nichols

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

a. August 20, 2015

Motion: To accept the minutes of August 20, 2015 as written.

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

Barry Camp Attendees (Taken out of order by consensus of the Commission)

Anna O'Hara, Cayla Carpia and Josh Treadway, each a participant at the Barry Conservation Camp this summer, gave brief presentations to the Commission highlighting their experiences and thanking the Commission for allowing them to attend the camp.

III. Finance Report

\$29.97 was spent in August to purchase bark mulch for the Bobby Woodman Trail.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Old Business

a. Invasive Species Tour

The Commission discussed what to do if the weather is really bad on the day of the tour. Mr. Wood is searching for indoor space within a short distance to Moody Park.

The tour will start at 4:30 at the entrance to park and will make its way to the top of hill with a stop at the halfway point.

The tour will be advertised in the Eagle Times, Valley News, Union Leader, eTicker, and on CCTV. Commissioners were urged to think of additional sites to advertise.

b. Status of Judy Wells' issue

Mrs. Harlow has met with City Solicitor, Jane Taylor, to discuss the next steps to take in the Judy Well's issue. Attorney Taylor told Mrs. Harlow that Council has the final say on whether or not to grant Ms. Wells permission to use the rail trail for equipment access to her retaining wall and will do so based upon the Commission's recommendations. There are several items that Ms. Wells will need to address before the Conservation Commission can make its recommendation. They are:

- The contractor will need to get a building permit from the City before construction on the wall can begin;
- The retaining wall is over 4 feet in height, so engineered drawings will be necessary for the building permit;
- The contractor will need \$1M in liability insurance;
- The contractor will be responsible for repair of all damages done to the trail during the construction activity;
- The location of the equipment trailer during the project needs to be specified.
- Written approval for use of the right-of-way access to the trail must be obtained.
- The dates and time that the construction equipment will be on the trail must be specified.
- The type and size of all equipment that will be used to complete the construction must be specified.
- Safety plan for rail trail users during construction must be created – will fencing, signage, etc be provided? Will it be overnight?
- Exact location of the rear property line must be known

Mr. Wood and Mr. Dickerman volunteered to make contact with Ms. Wells to go over this information.

c. Rail Trail R.O.W. survey/monumentation

The Commission viewed the 1913 railroad right-of-way maps. Survey bearings are shown on the map, but no monumentation. A licensed surveyor is needed to find any possible original monuments (buried stakes, pipes, etc) and re-establish those not found so the edge of the rail trail can be located on the ground.

The question of funding and who would pay for the work was discussed. There may be grant funds available through NHACC.

Mr. Wood suggested Wayne McCutcheon as a possible surveyor. He said that Mr. McCutcheon inherited all of Walt Breckinridge's surveys (Breckinridge was the first county forester for Sullivan County and a surveyor as well) which could prove helpful. Mr. Wood will contact Mr. McCutcheon.

All agreed that this will be the next project for the Commission following the invasive species tour.

d. Conservation Plan

Just a reminder that this is a project for the future.

e. Arrowhead Recreation Area Retention Pond update

Mrs. Harlow talked to Mark Brislin about it – this was included in an earlier project that is believed to have been already approved. The Commission felt no need to investigate further.

VI. New Business

a. NHACC Membership Dues

MOTION: To pay NHACC dues in the amount of \$419.

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

b. NHACC Annual Meeting

Information about the annual meeting is available on the NHACC website.

VII. Communications

- a. Smart Associates – Environmental consultants for the Washington Street/Bowen Street safety improvement project seeking comment from the Commission. No action was taken.
- b. NH Fish & Game – Wild Game Culinary Adventure – looking for funds – helps support Barry Camp Fund. The Commission agreed not to donate at this late date (the letter was dated August 6th) and because they already support the Barry Conservation Camp program by sponsoring the campers.

VIII. Other Business

The Commission proposed to meet on Friday, October 16th at 6PM if the Council Chamber is available to accommodate Mr. Wood being unable to attend the regularly scheduled meeting on the 15th.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse

Resource Coordinator