

**LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING**  
**April 8, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Allan Ryder, Bob Elwell, John Accardi and Rob Christie.  
Selectmen's Representative Leon Rideout.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Paul Theroux and Kim Votta.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by acting chairman Rob Christie.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Leon Rideout.

**APPOINTMENTS:** none

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Moved by Bob Elwell and seconded by Rob Christie to elect John Accardi Chairman.

Motion carried.

Moved by Leon Rideout and seconded by John Accardi to elect Rob Christie treasurer.

Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION**

- Review and approval of prior meeting minutes. None. Last meeting was 9/2018 – agenda is available.
- Review of Records and Minutes books. Rob Christie brought all information that was filed in the Town Office to the meeting for board members to review and discuss. It was noted that there have not been meeting minutes for several years. The last Conservation Commission report for the Annual Report was in 2011. The role of the Conservation Commission was discussed. Board members were interested in knowing exactly what their role is. Guidelines are needed. There are several documents that the Town Manager prepared for board members. It was noted that there are three things that the commission has to do; keep meeting minutes, prepare environmental surveys, and coordinate with other boards and agencies. Ongoing responsibilities are updates to the Master Plan and managing the Town Forest for compliance. Conservation easements should be reviewed yearly. There is a list of easements (from 1999) available but it may need to be updated. The Conservation Commission receives copies of DES Forestry notifications.
- Treasurer's report including fund balances and past fund transactions. Current balance in account as of 12/31/18 is \$4532.30 which includes 10% of land use changes taxes collected for 2009 – 2018 less expenses. Berry Conservation Camp – Conservation Commission traditionally scholarships at least 2 students to attend the camp. Students to receive the scholarship must be named by 4/1 with payment by 6/1. Did not make the deadline this year. Rob stated that he

does not believe that the scholarships should take priority over other Conservation Commission financial responsibilities.

- Review pending permit applications, current permitted projects and NHDES and NHDOT matters. NONE.
- Review of scope of allowed and mandatory tasks under RSA 36-A and other relevant NH Statutes.
- Review status of index (RSA 36-A). A study was done in 1991.

Update from Ben Oleson concerning the Town Forest etc.. Town Forest Stewardship Plan is being updated. The Town of Lancaster received a grant from Open Space Institute to evaluate the possibility of expanding the Town Forest to abutting parcels and to do outreach to determine how to expand the uses of the Town Forest. Alternative trail up Mt Cabot – from west side. Planning and Zoning Boards are working on updating the Town's Master Plan. Looking for input for Master Plan.

John Accardi stated that the Conservation Commission, in the past, has discussed assessing the trees in downtown Lancaster and making a comprehensive assessment on replacing them. Should a professional arborist be hired to do the assessment?

Rob Christie suggested establishing a calendar for the commission to avoid missing any deadlines.

Members are welcome to attend the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Mud Season Breakfast. The event includes seminars that would be of interest to commission members. Date of event is 5/3/19 and the fee is \$30. Allan and John plan on attending.

Rob Christie stated that he would like to donate some money to the commission to be used to pay for scholarships for the Berry Conservation Camp. Leon noted that it should be run by the auditors to see how the accounting should be handled.

Members briefly discussed the recent Martin Meadow Pond Dam Project. Rob Christie explained how the donations for the project were funneled through the town under the Conservation Commission to allow donations to be tax deductible. Money came in and went out to pay for the project.

Things members would like to do: define scope of responsibilities, set a goal to define Conservation roles, write a mission statement. Bob Elwell would like to continue to offer scholarships to the Berry Conservation Camp. Prepare binders for all members containing all pertinent information. Join NHACC

Moved by Bob Elwell and seconded by Allan Ryder to appoint Rob Christie communication secretary.

Motion carried.

Moved by Rob Christie and duly seconded to meet on the second Monday of each month.

Motion carried.

Moved by Leon Rideout and seconded by Rob Christie to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried – meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Oleson

  
Secretary

Approved: 5/13/19

John Accardi, Chairman

