

**LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING  
May 13, 2019**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kim Votta.

Ben Oleson, Town Planner, joined the meeting at 7:45 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman John Accardi.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Included in meeting packet was a resignation from Paul Theroux.

The board is made up of 7 members which includes the selectmen's representative.

B. Elwell recommended appointing Allan Carr (a former member) to fill the vacancy.

J. Accardi stated that he was ok with the recommendation as Mr. Carr has a lot of local and historical knowledge regarding Conservation Commission issues. A. Ryder agreed and said that he had served on the Planning Board with Mr. Carr.

R. Christie said he felt this was an opportunity to bring in younger people to serve on the commission. He said he felt the board should consider a broader involvement and to bring in new faces.

B. Elwell said that the only reason Mr. Carr was not reappointed is because he did not get down to the town office to sign his reappointment paper on time. He said Mr. Carr is interested in serving.

Moved by R. Christie to place an ad in the paper to see if anyone was interested in serving on the Conservation Commission. There was no second so the motion was void.

It was noted that there has been an ad in the paper earlier in the year looking for volunteers and only two responded for the Conservation Commission and they were appointed to the board.

Moved by B. Elwell and seconded by A. Ryder to recommend Allan Carr to the Board of Selectmen for appointment to the Conservation Commission to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Paul Theroux.

Motion carried – 3 yes, 1 no.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by A. Ryder and seconded by R. Christie to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2019 meeting.

Motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

R Christie reported the following:

\$4532.30 – as of April 8, 2019

\$4482.30 – as of May 13, 2019. Change represents \$50 payment to meeting secretary.

Mr. Christie advised that the only income to the commission is 10% of the fees collected from the land use change taxes.

Mr. Christie stated that the commission can raise funds through grants. He said there is no income from timber taxes paid to the town.

Moved by R. Christie and seconded by L. Rideout to accept the treasurer's report.

Motion carried.

### **CALENDAR/PLANING CYCLE**

1. Town Forest – Greg Ainsworth is creating a forestry management plan. He is assessing the availability of abutting properties to the town forest to be consolidated with the town forest. L. Rideout stated that he does not believe that there is currently any abutting land for sale. B. Elwell asked why there is a town forest. L. Rideout explained that originally it was to provide firewood for “paupers, widows and children”. Mr. Rideout said that the Heritage Trail passes through part of the town forest and there has been a plan, which was never implemented, to put an ATV trail through the town forest – some of the land is too wet for that purpose.

J. Accardi asked about the status of the Riverwalk along the Israel River. Mr. Rideout said that it is pretty much defunct. The bridge has not been put in for several years.

2. Calendar – R. Christie said the board should start to think about what they would like to put on the calendar. Example conservation easement monitoring and Barry Conservation Camp scholarships.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Town Easement Monitoring – needs to be done in a timely manner. Last done in 2017. Should be done yearly. There is a form to be completed and signed. There are 4 easements – 2 Southworth properties (2.33 acres and 13.86 acres), Smith (237 acres) and formerly Christie (there is a new owner, 37.4 acres). 3 of the easements protect the Garland Brook watershed (town water supply). There is an easement agreement for each easement. Inspection should determine if owner is honoring the agreement. After inspection of property the report is sent to the State (copy kept by Conservation Commission). The State holds the easements and does the enforcement. Process for easement monitoring – review each individual easement and then contact landowner to schedule date to perform inspection. It was agreed that June to September will be the best months to do the inspections. R. Christie will draft a letter to send to landowner

for permission for the inspection and will include a range of dates and ask the landowner for a preferred time. He will email it to board members for review and feedback before mailing.

2. Pending applications, current projects and NHDES and NHDOT matters. Letter regarding a shore land permit application submitted to NHDES by Constance Eastman Revocable Trust stating application was incomplete. Rte. 2 bridge project is underway.
3. Conservation Commission Rules of Procedure. A. Ryder went through RSA's and provided board members with a copy (attached to minutes) of the applicable RSA's. B. Oleson explained what rules of procedure should include – rules for appearing before the board, the makeup of the board, how appointments are made, reasons for recusals, appointment of alternates, attendance. He said he can create a rules of procedure document for the board.
4. Oaths of Office for Town Files. All members must sign an oath of office which is filed with the Town Clerk.
5. Sources of Funding. Can apply for grants.
6. Events Sponsoring. Examples: Earth Day, Conservation Day – to raise awareness of conservation and its worth. Suggestion is to set up table with information on Town Meeting Day or at the Street Fair or other town events. Also provide a report in the Annual Town Report. Can create a Conservation Commission page on the Town's website. Can include an email page for townspeople to share their input. B. Oleson said he can structure it like the Planning Board page. He offered his assistance and said he can attend the monthly meetings. Mr. Oleson urged the board members not to try to do everything overnight.
7. Master Plan Committee. Need to designate someone from the Conservation Commission to be on the committee. The committee will consist of 1 ZBA member, 1 Conservation Commission member, 1 Selectman, 2 Planning Board members and 5-7 community members. They will begin meeting the end of June or first of July and will meet once a month. The purpose of the Master Plan is to give direction to the town on how it should grow or ways it should not grow. It is a guideline.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Barry Conservation Camp. In February of this year the town manager made a commitment to Larry Barker to fund 4 campers in the amount of \$2200. It has been the practice of the board to sponsor a scholarship fund for campers each year.

Moved by L. Rideout and seconded by B. Elwell to fund 4 campers in an amount not to exceed \$2500 and to establish a separate fund to fund future scholarships.

Motion carried – unanimous.

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Kim Votta is working on the Cabot Trail. R. Christie said landowners have been approached and the work is progressing slowly.

Moved by R. Christie and seconded by L. Rideout to join the NHACC (New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions). The fee for the first year is \$200.

Mr. Christie said that it will be a resource. They run workshops and offer support and advice.

Motion carried.

Mr. Oleson will take care of the paperwork to join.


Moved by A. Ryder and seconded by B. Elwell to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting will be June 10 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Oleson

  
Secretary

Approved: 6/10/19

John Accardi, Chairman

