

LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING
January 13, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan Ryder, John Accardi, Don Frenette and Rob Christie.

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Oleson

ABSENT: Leon Rideout, Alan Carr and Kim Votta.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by A Ryder and seconded by R Christie to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting.

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

Scholarships for Conservation Camps

Would like to sponsor a couple of kids. R Christie ran ads in 2 papers for 2 weeks with no replies. The ads were run during Christmas time so perhaps it was too short a notice. Fish and Game put an ad on their Facebook page and have 2 applicants. Suggestion – ask Larry Barker to reserve 2 spots at the Barry Conservation Camp assuming CC will have applicants later on. L Barker's application process begins on 2/4. Consensus was, for the future, to advertise earlier in the year. If someone applies for a camp spot they can come to CC for sponsorship.

For clarification – the \$2500 for scholarship money is taxpayer money raised for the CC. Any part of that which is not used will go into the fund balance surplus. The money in the Conservation Fund that is not used stays in the fund.

The CC does not have a deadline to spend money for campers. The application process for the Barry Conservation Camp opens up on 2/4 and slots are filled immediately. R Christie advised that he sent notice to Lancaster Elementary School, Mt Royal Academy, Boy Scouts and 4H Groups.

B Oleson suggested that the CC provide a scholarship application to Larry Barker, Melissa Grella and other camps so it is available when someone comes in to sign up. An application needs to be developed with criteria-subsidize any Lancaster child who is interested in conservation.

Suggestion – contact L Barker and M Grella and others again to let them know that the CC has scholarship money they would like to use to sponsor campers. Also have camp directors contact CC with applicants.

Moved by R Christie and seconded by A Ryder to write to known camp directors making them aware that the CC has scholarship money for campers.

Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Review current and/or pending applications, projects, NHDES and NHDOT matters.
Wetlands acceptance of permit letter for the Country Village culvert.

Newsletter from DES – Supply Lines with the Source.

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$724.79 which does not include advertising expense for Conservation Camp scholarships (\$228.00). Approx. \$500 left in budget.

Budget Committee meeting

R Christie presented CC budget to the Budget Committee. They approved the \$5500 general funding plus the \$5000 for a natural resources inventory and \$5000 town forest expenses.

Regarding natural resources inventory – R Christie stated that estimates from vendors is \$5-6000. He suggested asking for vendor presentations. See what the inventory will consist of and then decide how much CC wants to spend. This would be done after Town Meeting.

Public Budget Hearing is Feb 6. R Christie will attend.

R Christie has walked the town forest.

Current Events

R Christie suggested holding an event at the water plant for the public sponsored by the CC if there is money left in education line. Provide food and entertainment. Other suggestions – touring the town sites – water plant, lagoons, pump station, grange station, reservoir, water tank at top of industrial park. R Christie will talk to Tim Bilodeau about it.

Board vacancy and expiring terms

J Accardi and K Votta have expiring terms this year.

Moved by R Christie and seconded by A Ryder to recommend the reappointment of John Accardi and Kim Votta for a 3 year term.

Motion carried.

CC report for Annual Report

R Christie will submit it by deadline of Jan 22.

OLD BUSINESS

Easement Monitoring updates

R Christie has not completed the reports but will have them done soon. A copy will go to the Selectmen and to the State. The Town holds all the easements. The Haslanger report does not have to be sent to the State.

J Accardi spoke to Barbara Peaslee- Smith about a management plan for the Smith easement. She is the third owner since the easement was established and cannot locate it. B Oleson will do some research and see if he can find out anything about a management plan and will work with Mrs. Smith to develop a plan. If in fact there is a plan out there it is 30 years old and needs to be updated.

Natural Resource Inventory proposals

Will discuss when K. Votta is present.

Training Topic

Suggestion – discuss what a natural resources inventory is- GIS mapping etc.

Next meeting – February 10, 2020.

Moved by R Christie and seconded by A Ryder to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried - meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Jean Oleson

Approved:

Clerk

John Accardi, Chairman