

**LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING
February 8, 2021**

Meeting conducted via ZOOM.

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by A Ryder.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll call was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Carr, Don Frenette, Leo Enos, Allan Ryder, Rob Christie, Kim Votta (via Zoom)

OTHERS PRESENT: No others present in person or via Zoom.

A. Ryder read the following:

This meeting is being held in an emergency status due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Under emergency circumstances, the meeting is being held via a videoconference exchange. This will allow for the Committee to discuss and deliberate items contemporaneously and allow for public participation and engagement as permitted. All votes will be by roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by A Carr and seconded by L Enos to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Appointments: None

Select board Report: L. Enos (Selectboard Rep. and Budget Committee member)

Selectboard is looking for recommendations for filling the two vacancies on the Conservation Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

Review current and/or pending applications, projects, and NHDES matters:

R Christie reported that the board received a copy of the Shoreland Mitigation Project Documentation submitted by Portland Pipeline to NHDES. This document will be made available for review at the Town Office.

Treasurer's Report – R Christie

As of Year End 2020 LCC as spent 98.24% of its Budget, of which \$181.41 is unencumbered. There is \$250 that was reserved for a public hearing for the Natural Resource Inventory. R Christie asked how the \$250 could be carried over into the 2021 Budget. L Enos said it was possible, the board needs to inform the Town Clerk that we wish to do so. R Christie suggested that in lieu of a public hearing the money be spent on printing pamphlets derived from the NRI.

Calendar and Planning Cycle:

A Ryder presented documentation of when and how Lancaster Town Forest was created. It was established on 3/8/1960 by Town Warrant Article #6 on a motion by Donald E Crane and voted on. *“To be comprised of the Hartford Lot, the Davey Lot and the Paul Lot so-called in accordance with Chapter 31 of the Revised Statutes Annotated, such a forest to be known as the Lancaster Town*

Forest, the said forest to be managed under the direction of the State Forester or his authorized agent in accordance with good forestry practices. After deducting the necessary expenses, the net proceeds from the sale of wood and timber from the said forest shall be paid into the Town Treasury”

R Christie noted that subsequent state legislation c.1975 regarding establishment of Town Forests and Town Forest Funds under the legislation did not apply to the Lancaster Town Forest, since it was established before 1975, and would require a vote of the Townspeople to bring the Lancaster Town Forest under the 1975 Statute. Further discussion was tabled until after new board appointments are made by the Selectboard.

Education Budget

A Ryder reported that a Scholarship check for \$2000 was presented to UNH student Kaiden Bedell. A press release has been prepared and sent to the local papers.

NRI pamphlets were received from Elise Lawson. These outline relevant themes from the NRI publication and can be used as quick references to topics included in the NRI document. R Christie will work on providing links to these pamphlets on the Town website as well as printing hard copies.

2019 Rules of Procedure

A Ryder circulated copies of the 2019 Rules of Procedure drafted by K Votta and adopted by the LCC. A Ryder pointed out that the document outlines the composition of the commission and includes a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Clerk (non-voting), and Correspondence Secretary. Further discussion tabled until after the vacant seats on the commission are filled.

Annual report to Town

R Christie reported that this has been completed and provided final copies.

Nomination recommendations

Motion by A Carr seconded by D Frenette to nominate Margaret Hobbs and Greg Burry for appointment to the Conservation Commission. Motion rescinded by A Carr after discussion. Motion by R Christie seconded by D Frenette to nominate Margaret Hobbs and Erick Livingston for appointment to the Conservation Commission Motion Carried by Role Call Vote L Enos abstained from vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Forest Harvesting

A Ryder reported that the access road was plowed but harvesting has not yet commenced on the Town Forest. The Intent to Harvest and Wetlands filings are in place. L Enos noted that Greg Ainsworth informed him that Harvesting (Timberwolf Logging) will commence some time in February.

OTHER BUSINESS

Zoom meeting timed out at 7:15, meeting proceeded with K.Votta in contact via R Christie cell phone.

R Christie is working on having the LCC included on the Town Zoom account. A Ryder will follow up with Ben Oleson.

R Christie reported that the Conservation Fund Balance at the end of 2017 was \$16,759.

Contributions to the fund from Land Use Change Tax collections for 2018 through 2020 can be pulled from Town reports to bring the account up to date.

Portland Pipeline Mitigation Project will generate \$140,000 in funds for wetlands mitigation. Brief discussion on potential projects that might qualify for funding, including Indian Brook. Motion by R

Christie seconded by L Enos to approach the town manager for potential projects that may be eligible for funding. Motion carried by roll call vote.

R Christie attended a zoom meeting on Feb 4, 2021 regarding “Geographic Response Plan Development” for critical sites along the Conn River. Geographic Response Plans (GRP’s) are map based plans showing first responders where critical resources are and where to place oil spill barriers to protect the critical resources. This was the initial meeting to identify potential oil spill sites adjacent to critical resource areas. The site where the Portland Pipe Line crosses the Israel’s river was identified as a potential critical site and is a candidate for GRP development. Two workgroup meetings are planned for 2021. With project completion scheduled for Dec 2021. Nuka Research is conducting the study for the Federal EPA. The Conn River Joint commission is partner in the process. Contact R Christie for more information.

Thank you to Kim Votta for her service to the Lancaster Conservation Commission.

Moved by L. Enos and seconded by A Carr to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Donald Frenette

Approved:

Acting Clerk

Allan Ryder, Chairman