

**LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING
October 12, 2020**

Meeting conducted via ZOOM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan Ryder, Don Frenette, Leo Enos and Rob Christie. Kim Votta via ZOOM.

ABSENT: Alan Carr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Margaret Hobbs and Leo Rideout, Jr

Due to the resignation of John Accardi from the Conservation Commission R. Christie, acting as interim chair person, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll call was taken.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by A Ryder and seconded by D Frenette to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting.

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Leo Rideout, Jr – Causeway Street and timber harvest. Mr. Rideout explained that there are a number of culverts east of the gate on Causeway Street leading to the town forest. He said the culverts are used to keep the road open but currently are in very rough shape and could not support logging trucks. Mr. Rideout was concerned that during the logging operation in the town forest the log trucks will destroy the culverts. His suggestion was to fix the culverts before the cut begins.

Maintenance on the road is done primarily by the landowners. Causeway Street is a town road until the gate when it becomes a Class 6 road.

Mr. Rideout said he is willing to work with the Conservation Commission so it is workable for all.

A Ryder provided pictures he had taken of 4 of the culverts that are in rough shape. (Pictures will be part of the permanent record).

Moved by R Christie and seconded by A Ryder to pass Mr. Rideout's concerns on to the Select board with a recommendation that appropriate action be taken.

Motion carried.

L Enos stated that the logger would be responsible. Mr. Enos said that he will pass the concerns on to the select board.

A Ryder added that Greg Ainsworth should be made aware of what is going on.

L Enos added that whoever does the harvest should be bonded.

SELECT BOARD REPORT

Laptop

L Enos said he would bring the issue up at the next select board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-up on Accardi Tasks (Timber, Conservation funds) – R Christie stated that at the last meeting Mr. Accardi was tasked to speak to Town Manager Samson regarding these funds. L Enos said he will talk to Mr. Samson and the select board regarding these funds.

Resignation of John Accardi – need to fill vacancy on the board and elect a new chairperson. Procedure is to put ad in the paper for new member. Anyone interested submits letter to select board. Select board will ask Conservation Commission for a recommendation.

R Christie said that he feels the new chairperson needs to be proactive. K Votta agrees but said she does not have time to take it on. She said this will be her last term on the commission. L Enos suggested Alan Carr.

R Christie nominated D Frenette and the nomination was seconded by A Ryder. Mr. Frenette declined the nomination.

A Ryder said he was not able to do it either.

Motion by L Enos and second by A Ryder to table the election of a chairperson.

Motion carried.

Alan Carr will be asked if he can take on the responsibility.

Master Plan Update – K Votta is on the committee. She said the committee is working on content chapters (transportation and housing). She said the natural resources inventory will be important to share with the committee.

R Christie asked if the Master Plan committee knows about the NRI. K Votta said yes as B Oleson is heading the Master Plan committee.

Easement Walks – have been completed.

Update on Southworth Easement Walk (building permit discussion) – building permit was issued. Select board will send letter to advise Southworths that the building cannot be used as a dwelling. L Enos will follow-up with select board about the letter. Copy of letter will become part of the easement documents and Conservation Commission records.

Smith Easement – there are 2 hunting camps on the easement property (Emery and Burt). As per easement the camps must be removed upon the death of the owners. Owners are both deceased and camps will be decommissioned.

Hay shed on Smith easement – has a building permit and building is used for agriculture as allowed by easement.

Barbara Peaslee-Smith has an issue with bear hunters running their bear dogs on her land and on the town access road. She is concerned that the dogs will disturb her stock and/or get trampled by

ner cows. She would like guidance as to whether or not she can ban bear hunting/dog running and be in compliance with the easement.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Focus

R Christie has prepared a list on focus subjects for 2021. He said he would like to make 2021 the “year of water”. He would like to discuss how to help non town water customers with water issues. Other focus subjects: pursue the timber harvest, replacing members and membership development – younger members. Nancy Southworth may be interested. Mr. Christie suggested asking easement owners if they would like to be members of the Conservation Commission.

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

Only application is for island Riverwalk on Israel River by Rotary Club.

Treasurer’s Report

No expenditures except for clerk.

Scholarship money (\$2500). A Ryder submitted a letter from Kaden Bedell who is a freshman at UNH. Her major is mechanical engineering. She switched from environmental engineering but still has the same interests. Mr. Ryder read the letter she submitted.

For the next meeting the commission will consider what the criteria for the scholarship money should be, what the award will be and what the conditions will be. A Ryder will provide a draft.

Common practice for scholarships is to make payment after the first semester transcripts.

K Votta noted that the commission should not be prohibiting students who have financial hardship issues and cannot proceed on their own. They may need money up front.

Budget for 2021 – need to begin preparation.

Review of NRI Draft

R Christie lead in the comments

1. Cover photo (Black Brook) – use a different photo, more Lancaster focused. R Christie suggestion to of Mt Prospect or Fox Fountain. Priority focus Lancaster resources. D Frenette – keep it a natural resource picture.
2. Page 2 - suggest including a report from Catherine Bregou, Hanover student, who assisted with the inventory focusing on carbon sequestration. Also add: funding provided by the citizens of Lancaster by 2020 Warrant Article. Dedicate the report to the taxpayers of Lancaster both residents and non-residents.
3. Page 4 – Executive summary, how to use the report and what is it good for.
4. Page 5 – add name of all the streams and rivers in Lancaster. History and Objectives – D Frenette suggested use acres as opposed to feet. For historic picture – use picture of whole town.
5. Page 8 – Rob Christie not Robert. Break out percentages of wetlands and farmland soils/
6. Page 10 – Include a list of permanent openings. Also list all the rivers, streams, and ponds. Mention towns upstream from the Israel as well. D Frenette – regarding water out of Garland stream – number of households in town. R. Christie – number that get water from town Garland Brook.

7. Page 13 – Table – include list of streams. Rank them in order by length or importance. 4 ponds were left off the list. Expand on the lower Ammonoosuc watershed. Mention that flood plain makes farms possible in Lancaster.
8. Make sure studies mentioned are available to townspeople.
9. Focus on aquifers.
10. Page 23 – vernal pool adjacent to Israel River. List all easements and open spaces important to the Town of Lancaster.

A Ryder requested the meeting be adjourned and that the commission continue with comments on the rest of the report at the next meeting.

D Frenette added that the Garland Brook water supply should be included and that the typos should be cleaned up.

K Votta reminded the commission that the requirements of the report had been met. Regarding clarifying the use of the report, have the emphasis on the frontend of the document. Extra info would be fine.

Moved by L Enos and seconded by D Frenette to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried - meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

lean Oleson


Clerk

Approved:


Chair