

**LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING
November 9, 2020**

Meeting conducted via ZOOM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan Ryder, Alan Carr, Leo Enos and Rob Christie.

ABSENT: Kim Votta and Don Frenette

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by R Christie who 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 L Enos and seconded by R Christie to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2020 meeting.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Moved by L Enos and seconded by R Christie to nominate Allan Ryder Chairman and Alan Carr Vice Chairman.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

A Ryder took over as chairman of the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust – R Christie reported that they are the holders of one of the conservation easements in the town (McGee Farm). He said they would like to address a meeting. Could not make tonight's meeting maybe can be on agenda for December or January meeting. Ammonoosuc has been approached about putting a new conservation easement in place.

SELECT BOARD REPORT

Selectman Enos said that the select board had discussed the B Southworth easement at their last meeting. B Southworth has indicated that all is fine with the issue. A Ryder noted that all the Conservation Commission needs to do now is finish its comprehensive report on the easement monitoring and submit a copy to the State and the select board. B Southworth has submitted a letter to the select board – a copy will be attached to the report and will go to the State and town. A Ryder said that will satisfy the Conservation Commission commitment.

OTHER BUSINESS

NRI Final Draft – final draft is completed with changes that were submitted incorporated. Next is to plan roll out. R Christie suggested using Conservation Commission funds to print copies for town's people and for Zoning Board members and Planning Board members. E Lawson has offered to create a series of brochures/flyers that can be uploaded on the town website.

Motion by R Christie and second by L Enos to accept the NRI as is.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Moved by R Christie and seconded by A Carr to review and approve the bill from Elise Lawson for the NRI in the amount of \$4750.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

The remaining \$250 will be paid after public presentation.

2021 Budget - No need for \$5000 for NRI. Keep amounts the same except change misc. to \$1200. Keep total requested budget amount for 2021 to \$5000.

R Christie stated that the Conservation Fund needs an audit and can only be spent (by law) by vote of the Conservation Commission.

Advertise Vacancy – B Oleson has sent a copy of ad he uses to R Christie. Currently there is one applicant. There are a few others who may be interested. There is currently one vacancy and at least one expected in March 2021. An ad will be put in Coos County Democrat.

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

David Hill property, Rowell Road R7 Lots 3 and 11, logger Travis Horan. Forestry application is accepted and culvert repair is denied (logger).

PPLC Israel's River mitigation – Zoom hearing 11/19. The bank of the Israel's River is eroding. Portland Pipeline has fixed it. The Conservation Commission and the town have an opportunity to receive funding for mitigation projects in the town in the amount of \$140,000-\$150,000. Monies would come to the Town first provided there is a plan for a mitigation project (build or mitigate a wetlands). If not monies would go to the State. Suggestion – Rotary Club project on the island. A Ryder said he would contact B Oleson to see if he has any ideas for a project for the town. Deadline for comment is before December. A Ryder will attend the Zoom meeting on 11/19.

Treasurer's Report – E Lawson bill \$4750, NHACC \$200 dues, advertising for vacancy and any other costs associated with the NRI. R Christie will get the bill or the NHACC dues to M Nadeau.

Town Forest Fund – R Christie suggested creating a warrant article to create a Town Forest Commission.

Calendar and Planning Cycle – NRI presentation. Need to schedule a date and time for the presentation and advertise. Do it after the first of the year. Suggestion is to do it in conjunction with the Master Plan. Will ask E Lawson about a January 2021 date.

Training Topics – goals for Conservation Commission next year. R Christie suggested bringing more awareness to the Conservation Commission and get more people involved with the commission and with the easements (monitoring walks etc.). A Carr and L Enos did not think easement monitoring walks was a good idea – liability issues. R Christie also suggested promoting it at the high school.

Town Forest – harvest plan progress report. A Ryder has been in contact with G Ainsworth and has a copy of the bid sheet. Bids were due 11/4. A Ryder advised G Ainsworth that he would like a copy of the bids. Will act on the bids at next meeting.

Survey Map preparation – no map of the town forest at the town offices. A Nadeau has not had the time to do the survey. Should have a map for the legal files.

OLD BUSINESS

Scholarship Fund – A Ryder prepared a draft criteria for the scholarship.

Moved by R Christie and seconded by A Carr to accept the scholarship requirements document as presented.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

It will be published in the paper and a copy will go to the high school and the Charter School. Need applications back before 12/11 to be acted on at 12/14 CC meeting. Decision will be made subject to the requirements of the application.

Barbara Peaslee-Smith correspondence – Emery and Burke camps. Wanted it clarified that she is under no obligation to tear down the camps per easement. Also she is not against bear hunting or baiting, only concerned with injury to her cows or by her cows. Will respond to her concerns. Water Plant easement road – her cows are on both sides of the road. A Carr advised that this is more of a Fish and Game issue and not a CC issue.

Will continue with ZOOM meetings if needed for special circumstances.

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.

Jean Oleson



Clerk

Approved:



Allan Ryder, Chairman