

**LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING
November 18, 2020**

Meeting conducted via ZOOM.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by A Ryder.

Roll call was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan Ryder, Alan Carr, Don Frenette, Leo Enos and Rob Christie. Kim Votta joined the meeting via Zoom.

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Ainsworth and Shane Beattie.

R Christie 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

Appointment: Greg Ainsworth, Consulting Forester

Town Forest

G Ainsworth explained that he had advertised the town forest cut in the Democrat one week and had phoned 3 or 4 contractors. Three expressed an interest and 2 showed up for the timber sale showing, Forrest Paul Hicks (Hicks Logging) and Chris Crowe (Timberwolf Logging). He said that only Timberwolf put in a bid which was not high (\$34660). Mr. Ainsworth said reasons for the low bid are Causeway Street is not a good road for logging and the pulp wood markets are bad. He said low grade wood is hard to get rid of. The market is low. Mr. Ainsworth said he recommends accepting the bid. He said he does not believe much will change over the next 3 years. Mr. Ainsworth said if the cut is put off for another year there may not be any bids. He said there is a pest problem with the soft wood trees in the town forest. Mr. Ainsworth said if it is put off the town will lose the spruce and fir.

L Enos asked if Mr. Crowe would go up 10% on his bid. G Ainsworth said he can ask him if he would go up on some of the products. He said the town forest does not have a lot of hardwood saw logs.

L Enos asked how long it would be before there could be another cut. Mr. Ainsworth said 12-15 years. He also said that the pine and hardwood would be fine to leave.

L Enos asked if once the cut is done if it would take care of the insect infestation. G Ainsworth said the issue is with the balsam fir.

Moved by R Christie and seconded by A Carr to accept the bid by Timberwolf Logging for the Town Forest cut subject to the request for Mr. Crowe to raise the bid. And to recommend that the Board of Selectmen sign the contract for the cut.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

Budget

R Christie advised that he had submitted the Conservation Commission’s proposed 2021 budget to the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager today. He said he took a closer look at the 2020 budget and proposed a budget of \$6100. \$1100 more than was discussed at the last meeting.

Moved by L Enos and seconded by R Christie to proceed with the 2021 proposed budget in the amount of \$6100.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

PPLC Riverbank Stabilization – Review Mitigation funds presentation

There will be a Zoom meeting Nov 19th. Conservation Commission members are invited to attend. B Oleson will also plan to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by R Christie and seconded by L Enos to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

R Christie explained what he had done regarding the ads for the scholarship and vacancies.

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

Motion carried by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Jean Oleson



Clerk

Approved:



Allan Ryder, Chairman

Rob Christie
For Allan
Ryder
By Zoom