

**LANCASTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING
August 10, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan Ryder, John Accardi, Don Frenette, Rob Christie, Kim Votta, Alan Carr, Leo Enos

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman John Accardi.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by A Ryder and seconded by L Enos to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020 meeting.

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPLICATIONS/PROJECTS

Tim More was scheduled to present a proposed study on Martin Meadow Pond but was not present.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

L. Enos had nothing to report

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Focus

Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) contract from Elise Lawson signed
Conservation Commission will ask Elise Lawson to incorporate a list of all conservation easements in the town into her report

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

Discussed Connecticut River "Source to Sea" annual cleanup Sep. 1-30 and what actions should be taken. We agreed the Commission should place flyers at some local stores and maybe at the boat landing about the cleanup as well as notices in the library and on the Notices to Residents on the town website to make people aware and encourage participation on helping to clean up the Connecticut River in the Town of Lancaster.

Treasurer's Report

Money spent on copies of on packages for Easement walks – about \$70.

Clarification on Conservation Committee funds

1. Conservation Fund: monies received from current use – land use change. Balance is approximately \$6-7,000 with \$1,500-2,000 more expected at the end of the fiscal year. These monies are carried over in the Conservation Fund year after year

2. Annual appropriations: the annual budget expenses that were approved by the Town and we use it or lose it by the end of the fiscal year. Michael Nadeau will get R. Christie the updated balance

Calendar and Planning Cycle

Easement Monitoring:

Easement Monitoring for Smith Farm and Town Water Plant – will set a date/dates at the September meeting.

Alan Carr suggested for future Easement Monitoring that we meet at one place clearly designated and possible split into two groups to cover more than one easements at a time. Alan C., John and Leo met at the corner of Garland and Pleasant Valley Road for the last easement monitoring of the Southworth property, while Allan R. Rob & Don were a short distance away in the Southworth's driveway; so we did not all connect.

Training Topics/Materials

Drone used as a tool:

We discussed the possibility of the Commission getting their own drone to help with easement monitoring. L. Enos will discuss this with the Selectboard to see if any other Town Departments (ie. Water, Sewer, etc. would have any use for one. If so, the Commission will look into possible grants available to minimize any out of pocket expense to the Town.

Rivers

R. Christie brought up the fact that part of the Lower Ammonoosuc and Israel Rivers that go through the Town and there may be grant monies available for certain projects because of this. It was reported the Army Corp of Engineers had visited the "Ice Dam" recently in preparation for its removal.

Easement List

In-Town Conservation Easement List – the State is encouraging all towns to make a master list of all easements that are in each town. We do not know of any list that exists but will generate a list of what we know and get a copy to Elise Lawson the for the NRI.

Zoom Account

Town currently has one Zoom account but only one person is allowed to access it. Should the Commission have their own? Elise Lawson would like to attend a Commission meeting via Zoom. We will pursue asking if the current Town account can be upgraded rather than go with a separate Zoom account

Records and Files

Currently with Conservation Commission emails, they have to be deleted on a regular basis due to the size of the Town's account. The Commission should be able to back up the emails on a external hard drive, a cloud account or on the Town's server so we do not lose our records. We also are in need of a file cabinet in the new file room to store records.

Motion moved by R. Christies and seconded by L. Enos to establish a cloud account to be sure records are kept.

Discussion: cost would be approximately \$1/month and will be put into the 2021 Conservation Commission proposed budget.

Motion carries.

TOWN FOREST

With regard to the OSI grant (\$12,000) there were 3 parts:

1. Initial study for acquisition for possible expansion - done
2. Public Hearings - done
3. Report and Recommendations

We are still waiting for the final report from Julie Renaud Evans; have asked for an update but have not heard anything back recently.

R. Christie will follow up with Andy Nadeau on his offer to provide a survey map of the Town Forest.

We will need two separate funds set up within the Towns bookkeeping files. The Town Conservation Fund and Town Forest Fund. L. Enos will discuss this with Ed Samson. R. Christie will get with Michael Nadeau to get these two funds set up after getting more information from the Selectboard and Town Manager

Old Business

Southworth Easement Walk – R. Christie, D. Frenette and A. Ryder met with the Ben Southworth and Kristin Scobie on July 29, 2020 and walked the majority of the property. They noted a small timber frame building being built on the easement. It was discussed whether or not a building permit was needed, and the Commission felt a permit should be applied for. Also, the owners of the property plan to construct a small greenhouse on the property for agricultural purposes. A draft Easement Monitoring Form still has to be filled out. D. Frenette has a record of where we walked during the easement visit via GPS.

Barbara Peaslee Smith provided a Forest Management Plan done by Licensed Profession Forester #0495, Dale Covey of Groveton, NH dated July 17, 2020 for her property. The Commission greatly appreciates her providing this document for the records in a timely manner.

New Business

We need to start getting some rough number down for the 2021 budget proposal.

Motion made by L. Enos and seconded by A. Carr to adjourn.

Motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:45 pm

Next meeting – Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Allan Ryder

Acting

Clerk

Approved:

John Accardi, Chairman