

TOWN OF BEDFORD
January 29, 2019
CONSERVATION COMMISSION WORKSHOP
MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at the Bedford Public Library Richmond Room, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Beth Evarts, Dave Gambaccini, Catherine Rombeau, Maggie Wachs, Mac McMahan and Bill Carter. Absent were James Drake, Bob MacPherson and Phil Greazzo. Also present was Karin Elmer, Planner 1

Ms. Evarts opened the meeting and had the Commission members introduce themselves.

Review of Future Goals and Priorities:

The Commission discussed different ways they might become more consistent in reviewing pools, sheds and other structures within the wetland setback. It was suggested that creating a list of perhaps 10 standard questions that could be given to applicants before the meeting and placed on the website might be a good way to make sure nothing is being missed from one application to another. Ms. Evarts will solicit members for their questions with a draft list to be ready for review at the next meeting.

Pulpit Rock Grant and Forest Management Plan Update:

Ms. Evarts explained to the Commission that there were funds left over from the Pulpit Rock Grant. When the NH Trails bureau came out for an inspection, it suggested that the Commission apply for an extension and continue to improve the trails in the area. As such, the town contacted FORECO for estimates for continued trail work. FORECO subsequently submitted estimates for continued expansion and improvements of trails. After review of the proposals by the Commission the following action was taken:

Motion by Ms. Rombeau to approve a not-to-exceed amount of \$4,000 for the Red Trail Improvements, north of Indian Rock. Seconded by Bill Carter. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Carter to approve a not-to-exceed amount of \$9,000 for Yellow Trail Improvements, Old woods road to detention pond. Seconded by Catherine Rombeau. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Wachs to approve a not-to-exceed amount of \$6,000 for Option 2, Yellow and White Trail improvements west of detention pond. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Evarts has also spoken with Ethan Belair, County Forester, about the RFP for a Forest Stewardship plan that was issued last year. He noted that the low response to the Town's Forest Management RFP may be because the Commission was not looking for a timber harvest at Pulpit Rock to address the HWA infestation concern. Since the Commission is interested in evaluating the property with respect to infestations, he suggested that it might be beneficial to conduct an ecological assessment of the property to best determine a long-term course of action. Ms. Evarts will speak with FORECO to see what insight

they may be able to provide for this process, as FORECO has conducted ground work at Pulpit Rock and is familiar with the property.

Other Topics:

Ms. Wachs expressed an interest in making all the data we have collected for conservation lands more accessible, perhaps with a searchable database. Mrs. Elmer will provide all the data for Ms. Wachs to start the project.

Chairwoman Evarts expressed an interest in assigning each member a conservation parcel to view. Each site visit would note any deficiencies of the land, such as overgrown trails, missing or fading trail markers, points of interest. Members should also provide recommendations to the Commission of sustainable improvements such as expanded parking, additional benches, and other items such as survey plans or natural resources inventories. Once all properties are reviewed, a list of project priorities will be developed by the Commission. A long-term conservation management plan for each property will be the goal of this work.

Mr. Gambaccini would like to have a standard opening remark for Commission meetings developed that restates the role of the Conservation Commission.

Motion by Mr. Gambaccini to adjourn at 8:02pm. Second by Mrs. Rombeau. All in favor.

*Respectively submitted,
Karin Elmer, Planner 1*