

Conservation Commission Minutes 08/24/2016

Date: August 24, 2016

Attendees: Neal Brown, Karen Day, Conrad Dumas, Janet Renaud, Marlene Paulsen, and Ray Cilley (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. The following items were addressed:

- Advance agenda and membership – Conrad, Janet and members
 - Janet R. had sent out an “unofficial” agenda
 - Most agreed that an advance agenda is desirable
 - Marlene volunteered to do it for a two-month trial period. Members should send her the items.
 - Marlene needs to see the Town Clerk (Dee) to get sworn in.

- Review plans for the September 24th event at the Robertson Property – Ray, Neal and members. SEE ACTION ITEMS WITHIN THE LIST; Neal also to send out to-do list with assignments
 - Event will be held from 10 – 2
 - rep from USDA will be there
 - Also, a member of the Robertson family (Elizabeth?)
 - Carol will send notes to Neal for remarks
 - remarks – noon. Ray, then USDA, then Robertson rep, then Neal
 - press release – Karen – good publicity for Con Com – “this is what the conservation fund does.”
 - some vehicles can park in field – Karen, greeter
 - hot dogs at noon – if the Boy Scouts don’t do it, Ray will manage it, and bring the grill
 - Neal – buy hot dogs & chips, rolls, water
 - Neal will manage tables & chairs
 - Ray will contact Lenny/Dale/Hist. Society re: cellar holes & old train station
 - Karen suggested a sandwich board – (“event this way” with arrow).
 - Sign board on common: Karen will persuade Aaron to put on the letters
 - Karen to contact Catherine re: town bulletin board (e-mail blast)
 - Neal will send out to-do list

- George Proctor property – Janet, Conrad and members
 - Janet met with Select Board 8/2/16:
 - Marlene and Ken Paulsen also were there for moral support and Sayles trust info
 - Janet provided the three documents: 1) copy of original agreement with Sportsmen’s Club, 2) the “termination” notice, and 3) the draft of the new agreement with the Con Com
 - Margo said they would discuss them in the near future. When pressed, she said that if the Con Com hadn’t heard back from them in a month’s time, to contact Aaron.
 - Bob Marshall explained the difference between “conservation” and “preservation,” and asked if there would be any conflict with the Con Com with the original agreement, which listed developing the land for hunting, among other things. He also mentioned “pristine” and “forever wild.” Janet told him that the Con Com had a forest management plan developed, and that nothing would be done that is in conflict with the deed restrictions or current use.

- Margo brought up the Sayles Trust Fund. Ken explained it. Janet said that the Con Com might be interested in the money somewhere down the road, but for now, just wanted to get through this transfer of stewardship piece. Margo also was hoping for some assurance that the S-Club wouldn't rise up from the grave and demand their rights. Janet reminded them that the last activity on the property had been in the eighties, and that if the Select Board followed the verbiage in the escape clause, they would be covering all bases. They didn't say anything about referring this to Town Counsel, but it's possible that they might.
- Ray: makes sense for us to take it over since Select Board has no time.
- Forest Management plans
 - Payment: per Conrad, Carol said to pay, and take the \$\$ out of the Conservation Fund. Conrad contacted Catherine, and both invoices had already been paid. Perhaps the money went to Garland corporate. Conrad sent Karla a letter telling her she was paid.
 - Ray asked if the forestry proceeds could go to the Conservation Fund – no; according to the agreement, it goes to the General Fund.
- New Boston Road culvert update - Janet and members
 - Janet did the research, but now needs to hand this over to someone.
 - Conrad will talk to Neal B., to see if he knows what the status is
 - Karen will talk to the Select Board
 - Janet will scan & send documents to Karen and Conrad.
- NRI development – Karen and members
 - Karen presented members with copies of the proposal from Henry Underwood/SWRPC.
 - Member should review the document and be prepared to discuss at the September meeting.
 - There following a brief discussion on funding.
 - Janet agreed to invite Paul Renaud, Planning Board Chair, to the next Con Com meeting to discuss possible funding for its inclusion in the Master Plan. Janet mentioned that Paul also wanted to discuss other things with the Con Com.
 - Karen remarked that funding sources were not in the proposal, although she had hoped Henry would include that. She said she would invite him to the next meeting to discuss funding.

Conrad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM; Karen seconded; unanimous. The next meeting is September 28th, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janet Renaud to members for approval, corrections, and posting.