

Note: These minutes are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Conservation Commission.

Members Present: Bruce Allen, Marla Binzel, Ken Jacques, Daphne Klein, and Leigh Callaway (Selectman's Representative). Bruce Allen opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes: There wasn't a quorum on 1/5/17, so an official meeting was not held. The minutes of 12/07/16 were approved as written.

Wetlands:

There has been discussion amongst town officials regarding the relocation of the sand shed from the highway safety lot to behind the ball fields. The current shed encroaches on wetlands and the state has requested the town remedy the situation.

Town Lots:

Bruce Allen and Cynthia Bruss recently visited the McDonald Knapp lot and did not observe any signs of recent vehicular traffic.

Selectman Callaway indicated that a question has arisen regarding the deed for the Knowlton lot. Lawyers are currently reviewing the relevant documents.

Outreach:

Bruce Allen, Cynthia Bruss and Patricia Allen-Shaw will be attending a meeting with the Eastman Charitable Trust on February 17th, along with representatives from Enfield and Grantham Conservation Commissions. The Trust is interested in funding conservation related projects in the tri-town region.

Zoning, Planning, Selectman Reports:

The Zoning Commission has completed work on changes to the zoning ordinances regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The state ordinance has been molded to fit Springfield's desired land use goals. The proposed changes will be offered as a referendum on the ballot at next month's town meeting. The state ordinance takes effect July 2017 and the town must have its own ordinance in place at that time in order to avoid the state's ordinance being the default rule on ADUs.

Misc. and other communication

Bob Ruel's term has expired and due to time constraints, he does not wish to be reappointed.

Current officers were reelected to their respective positions for the upcoming year, and Marla Binzel was elected to replace Bob as Vice Chair.

The Commission began discussion on Goals for 2017. A document organizing information pertaining to the town conservation lots, such as acreage, dates of previous timber harvests, and recommendations for timing of future timber cuts, etc. will be one of the first projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. Submitted by Marla Binzel