

Members present: Marla Binzel, Emily Cleaveland, Tim Fraser, George McCusker, Dan Saulnier

Marla opened the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Minutes: George made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/6/20. Tim seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Summary of Action Items:

- **Marla will review bylaws to determine minimum number of members for a quorum.**
- **Members who haven't yet will review NHDES Conservation Commission guidance.**
- **Dan to contact UVLSRPC about borrowing equipment to perambulate town forests.**
- **Marla to check with Bruce Allen and Cynthia Bruss about current state of lot markings.**
- **George will request Selectboard approval to plant Eastman's tree.**
- **All members to bring ideas for Earth Day outreach to April meeting.**

Review of NHDES wetlands guidance for Conservation Commissions:

- Most members had reviewed the State's PowerPoint slides. Those who haven't yet were gently reminded. Link is here: <http://www.nhacc.org/files/6215/7315/4412/NHACC-CCs-role-in-permit-processfinal.pptx.pdf>
- General discussion Springfield Conservation Commission's new role in reviewing applications for work impacting wetlands based on December 2019 revisions to NH wetland regulations.
- Monthly meetings of this Commission do not align with maximum 14-day turnaround on applications. A procedure was conceptualized as follows:
 - Applicant submits wetland application to Springfield Town Clerk (starts 14-day response window)
 - Town Clerk notifies Conservation Chair by phone and/or email (notifies Vice-Chair if Chair is unavailable).
 - Chair (or Vice-Chair) examines application at Town Hall. If application warrants investigation by Conservation, Chair (or Vice-Chair) will ask Town Secretary (Janet) to notify all Conservation members.
 - During the next few business days, members will visit Town Office to review application.
 - By phone or email, the Commission will reach consensus as to next steps, which could include site walks, submitting comments to NHDES, or other actions.
- Emily suggested that we think about this proposed procedure and plan to refine it and vote on it during April meeting.
- George suggested that Whit Smith is a valuable resource for this work, as he visits project sites.

Town Lots:

- Dan and Marla spoke about the Forestry for Non-Foresters Workshop that they attended in Haverhill, NH on 2/21/20. Although it was not intended to make them into foresters, it did provide them with the ability to better understand forestry reports and assist with planning and decision-making for Springfield's wood lots. It also provided food for thought about setting specific goals for each of the lots. Members suggested that some lots might be managed for maximization of economic value, while others might have greater emphasis on recreation or wildlife habitat, although these goals are not mutually exclusive.

- Marla stated that Dode Gladders, Forestry Field Specialist for the Sullivan County UNH Extension, can help with this, too. Phone 603-863-9200.
- Marla shared an update from Ken Jacques (absent) that he spoke with Brooks Weathers (Springfield resident and Forester). Brooks is willing to perform a timber survey of the town lots, help develop requests for proposals, and review bids. Brooks suggested that the best time to survey is in the fall, and in the meantime we should mark the property lines. This will save time (and therefore money) in the field.
- George stated that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRP) has GPS and other equipment we can borrow to assist with perambulation. Dan to follow up with UVLSRP about this.
- Marla will ask Cynthia Bruss and Bruce Allen about current status of town lot property marks.
- Marla distributed copies of the deed restrictions on the Society Lot, which explains how we can use proceeds from sale of timber from this lot.

Outreach:

- Marla stated that this year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, and suggested the Commission try to support and recognize this through community outreach. Brainstorming ensued:
 - Green-Up Day is May 2, but several Commission members will be away.
 - Planting the tree that Eastman Charitable Foundation is providing could be part of an event. Marla will find out when it is arriving, and if the Garden Club can assist with the planting.
 - George will bring up the Eastman tree at the next Selectboard meeting, and request that the board approve the planting of the tree.
 - Saplings can be obtained from a variety of sources for not much expense. These could be given away as prizes or incentives for planting in residents' yards or other spots in town.
 - Pooh-Sticks: children can build boats out of natural materials and float them down the stream in Collins Park.
 - Demonstration of the root wrench available for check-out at Libbie Cass Library.
- Marla asked everyone to continue to brainstorm and bring ideas to the April meeting.

Zoning, Planning, and Selectboard Reports:

- Selectboard is involved with discussions about a small section of snowmobile trail that is in dispute about whether or not it can be groomed. Selectboard is expected to hear diverse opinions about operations at two lumber mills at their next meeting.

Communications and Miscellaneous:

- A concerned resident noted that the map of conserved properties on the Town website is incomplete (missing the Webb property). A discussion ensued among members as to the most appropriate sites to highlight on the site. Although no vote was taken, a general consensus appeared to be forming around listing each town-owned property with information and photos, and having a general statement about having XX acres of privately conserved land in town, and providing mention of Ausbon-Sargent and other land preservation trusts. No action was committed to at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Dan Saulnier