

Town of Randolph

Conservation Commission

Minutes of May 9, 2019

Members Present: James Hunt, Roberta Arbree, Nate Peters, Lauren Bradley (Selectmen's Rep)

Members Excused: Gary Newfield, Walter Graff, Bruce Kirmmse, Jen Barton-Scarizza

Others Present: Brandy Capozello

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by James Hunt.

James Hunt shared a pinecone from a Ponderosa Pine (Latin: Pinus Ponderosa) and recommended the book "The Overstory" by Richard Powers.

Minutes of March 14, 2019: On a motion by Roberta Arbree, seconded by Nate Peters, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of March 14, 2019 as presented.

Nate Peters shared information from DES on riparian buffers. Peters was advised by DES that all the tributaries in Randolph are third order or smaller, so none would fall under the Shoreline Act. The Pond of Safety is the only waterbody that would be protected by the Shoreline Act, and this is completely contained in the Town Forest, and is only used for recreational activities. There are no designated prime wetlands in Randolph at this time. For wetlands to be designated as prime, the state would have to approve it and the town would have to vote on it. Brandy Capozello asked about the town forest and if camping was allowed. She was advised that camping is allowed for up to 14 days. DES advised that if the town wants to protect waterways as best as it can, there should be a wetland study and river studies, which have already been done. Peters stated that nobody would give a recommendation on footage for riparian buffers, although most regulations state 25 feet or more. Lauren Bradley reminded the Commission that some landowners have deeded rights to the water on their property. There needs to be a happy medium between protecting the land and allowing landowner use. It was agreed that using the Shoreline Protection ordinance from the Town of Carroll is a good place to start. Things that should be considered to add are cutting trees on steep banks near water, and septic systems for properties that currently have cesspools. James Hunt will speak with John Scarizza about septic regulations, and Peters will draft a shoreline protection ordinance for the Planning Board and bring it to the next meeting for review.

James Hunt advised the Commission that he recently spoke with Gary Newfield about Rails to Trails and they agreed the Commission should be kept informed of what is happening. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Lauren Bradley advised the Commission that letters were sent from the Selectboard to the area representatives advising them of Randolph's decision to not allow ATV's on the trails in Randolph.

James Hunt advised that Bruce Kirmmse no longer wants to serve on the Commission. Membership was discussed and it was decided that they do still have 5 members, which is what they need, but will need someone to serve as Chair.

Roberta Arbree advised that she has an electronic copy of the river studies and can send them to anyone if needed.

Adjournment: On a motion from Roberta Arbree, seconded by Nate Peters, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

May 10, 2019