

Town of Randolph

Conservation Commission

Minutes of July 11, 2019

Members Present: James Hunt, Roberta Arbree, Nate Peters, Gary Newfield, Bruce Kirmmse, Jen Barton-Scarinza

Members Excused: Walter Graff, Lauren Bradley (Selectmen's Rep)

Others Present: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Bruce Kirmmse.

Minutes of May 9, 2019: Bruce Kirmmse requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that he does still wish to serve on the commission, just not in the role of Chairman. Gary Newfield asked about prime wetlands, and was advised this is a complicated application process which would require state approval.

On a motion by Roberta Arbree, seconded by Gary Newfield, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of May 9, 2019 as amended.

James Hunt shared information on an Invasives Academy that is being offered by the UNH Cooperative Extension on September 26-27. It will be held at the Shaker Village in Enfield and will cover invasive plant ecology, management, and stewardship planning. The committee discussed invasive plants currently in Randolph, including Japanese knotweed and purple loosestrife. Roberta Arbree suggested that an eradication project would be a good idea for young people and Jennifer Barton-Scarinza advised that the trail crew pulled purple loosestrife in Pondicherry back in 2003.

Bruce Kirmmse asked the members about the position of Chair. James Hunt agreed to serve as Chair of the Conservation Commission. Kirmmse will bring this to the Board of Selectmen to appoint Hunt.

Nate Peters provided the Commission with a draft for the suggested Shoreland Protection Ordinance, adding a paragraph 11 concerning the use of stream water for irrigation, agricultural and livestock needs, and deeded home water use rights. Members of the commission will review the draft and modify at the next meeting. As for riparian buffers, Roberta Arbree suggested a buffer of 10 feet, so as to not be too restrictive.

Roberta Arbree shared a brochure that was created by the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust on Living Next to a Stream. Arbree suggested that it be printed and sent to anyone who purchases property along the rivers, and advised that the Trust did give permission for the brochure to be

used. Gary Newfield suggested that it would be relevant to anyone who lives by water or wetlands, and should be distributed to any new property owners in town. Newfield will contact the Randolph Foundation to see if they would help with the cost of printing and if they could include this in welcome packets given to new residents. Arbree will obtain a copy of the names and addresses of residents along the river. Jennifer Barton-Scaranza will look into costs for printing. The Commission felt that having Rebecca Brown from the Trust speak to the town about the information in the brochure would be beneficial. Bruce Kirmmse will contact Yvonne Jenkins at the library to see if they would be interested in holding a program, and will contact Rebecca Brown her to see if she would be available for both a program at the library and to speak to the Randolph Foundation next year.

Gary Newfield advised the Commission that the state has been mowing the Presidential Rail Trail. Aaron Gorban of the Coos County Cycling Club agreed to be the non-profit sponsor for insurance purposes so that the Friends of the Rail Trail could mow, and Dwight Bradley had volunteered to do the mowing. Newfield will email Clinton Savage in the fall and advise that they will do the mowing themselves next year. There have been people documenting the historical significance of places along the trail by bike and by foot. They are also looking at the cost of using ledgepack on the trail. Newfield advised that the State is dragging its feet in the lawsuit concerning the ATV trail in Gorham. Bruce Kirmmse advised that the Town of Randolph has voted to not allow ATV's on the rail trail, and the Conservation Commission's concern with the matter is in line with the Town's official position.

Nate Peters advised that on the website, his term is listed as expiring in 2019, but should be 2022. Bruce Kirmmse will speak with Linda Dupont to have this corrected.

Adjournment: On a motion from Jennifer Barton-Scaranza, seconded by James Hunt, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

July 12, 2019