

Town of Randolph

Conservation Commission

Minutes of February 14, 2019

Members Present: James Hunt, Gary Newfield, Roberta Arbree, Nate Peters

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

Others Present: John Scarinza and Auvern Kenison

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by James Hunt.

Minutes of January 10, 2019: On a motion by Roberta Arbree, seconded by Gary Newfield, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of January 10, 2019 as presented.

Gary Newfield asked about the glade skiing that was mentioned in the minutes. John Scarinza advised it has been discussed in the Gorham Town Forest, off of Jimtown Road.

John Scarinza advised the Commission that the Randolph Foundation has been fundraising to purchase a 16 acre parcel that was originally a part of the Boothman estate. The estate was split into parcels so that each of the children would have a lot of land. Sarah Parker contacted Scarinza several times about selling her land, however the price was originally too high. The current price was reasonable at \$52,500. The Randolph Foundation purchased the land from Parker, and then raised the money to pay for it. The Randolph Foundation would now like to give the land to the town, to eventually be added to the Randolph Town Forest. The Randolph Foundation needs both the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen to accept the gift.

On a motion by Gary Newfield, seconded by Roberta Arbree, the Conservation Commission voted unanimously to accept the donation of the former Sarah Parker property, Lot R10-4B, now owned by the Randolph Foundation, to be made part of the Randolph Town Forest.

Auvern Kenison asked if the town can just accept the land or if it needs to be voted on at town meeting. John Scarinza advised that the town can accept the donation, but adding the land to the town forest will need to be voted on at the town meeting.

Roberta Arbree brought up the issue of riparian buffers. John Scarinza advised that the Planning Board is in the process of rewriting the Master Plan. During that process they have brought up the issue of how best to protect the waterways. Some towns dictate what can be done along larger brooks and streams. Scarinza encouraged the Conservation Commission to think about the issue and bring any suggestions to the Planning Board, who will be working on

land use ordinances and subdivision regulations. These need to be updated regularly to be sure they match with state law and also coincide with the wishes of the residents. Gary Newfield asked if this would apply to intermittent streams and wetlands and Scarinza advised they could set a buffer zone for each order of streams or rivers. Fish and Game would like to see the canopy left close to the rivers to provide shade and as an undisturbed filter area. Scarinza passed out copies of a sample ordinance for the Commission to review, as some sections may need to be removed, or some wording may need to be added. Randolph does not currently have an ordinance in effect. A change in the land use ordinances would be voted on by ballot at town meeting, and this would be for next year, not this year. It was suggested that Elise Lawson be contacted for input, as she was responsible for the studies on the Moose River and Israel River. Gary Newfield suggested that with global warming, and increased rain and flooding, this is an important issue to consider.

James Hunt reminded the Commission that they are still looking for another member. John Scarinza suggested that Jen Scarinza may be interested. Auvern Kenison also suggested his granddaughter, Kelly, as long as it is not a conflict with her current employer. The position is appointed by the Selectmen.

Adjournment: On a motion from James Hunt, seconded by Roberta Arbree, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

February 15, 2019