

Town of Randolph

Conservation Commission

Minutes of March 14, 2019

Members Present: James Hunt, Gary Newfield, Roberta Arbree, Nate Peters, Lauren Bradley (Selectmen's Rep), Jen Barton-Scaranza

Members Excused: Walter Graff, Bruce Kirmmse

Others Present: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by James Hunt.

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

James Hunt advised that he spoke with Auvern Kenison's granddaughter, Kelly, to see if she was interested in serving on the Conservation Commission, and she is not.

On a motion by James Hunt, seconded by Roberta Arbree, the Commission voted unanimously to nominate Jen Barton-Scaranza as a member of the Conservation Commission.

James Hunt will bring the nomination to the Selectmen to approve.

Roberta Arbree asked about the number for a quorum now that they have six members and was advised it will be 4.

The Commission discussed the issue of riparian buffers, which the Planning Board had requested they take a look at. James Hunt advised that he spoke with Elise Lawson, who said that Randolph is ahead of every other town in the state and does not see any problems at all. Roberta Arbree stated that there may not be issues now, but there may be in the future as new property owners decide to clear brush away from the riverbanks. Lauren Bradley suggested that the Commission contact DES, as they are a good resource and could have someone come out to assist. Roberta Arbree advised that she attended a session on riparian buffers that the Association of Conservation Commissions offered, but many of the information was on the Shoreline Protection Act, which covers larger rivers. Nate Peters stated that although they want to protect the waterways, they also don't want to limit what landowners can do, as there are uses that can be allowed. Lauren Bradley advised that many properties also have deeded rights to the river. Nate Peters volunteered to do some research on the DES site and may invite them to come to a meeting of the Commission.

James Hunt asked the Commission if they had any thoughts on HB442, which prohibits hunting coyote during certain months. Lauren Bradley advised that she saw tracks yesterday in her yard, so they are in the area. If a letter is going to be sent in support, it will need to be done tonight or tomorrow, as they will be voting soon.

Roberta Arbree asked about LIDAR data for Randolph, as she was not able to access information about Randolph on the NH stone wall mapping website. Lauren Bradley advised that not all of Randolph has been flown, and that some of the data may not have been processed yet.

James Hunt mentioned an article on Greta Thunberg, who is an activist on the topic of Climate Change. The "School Strike for Climate" protest will take place tomorrow, March 15.

Lauren Bradley mentioned the maple demonstration that was held yesterday at WMCC. The County Forester, who is also the state maple expert, was the presenter. He discussed what is happening to the maple trees and why.

Gary Newfield mentioned the Letter to the Editor in the paper this week from State Senator David Starr, in which he stated that the property owner's rights were second to the economic development that OHRV's are providing for the area. Newfield advised that Edith Tucker was approached about Randolph opening the trail to allow use during the ATV festival, to which she responded no. Newfield is concerned that the state may be able to override the town. Lauren Bradley advised that a letter did go out to everyone involved with the information that Randolph chooses not to allow motorized recreation on the trail during non-snow months. Another letter from Richard Samson in the paper did side with landowners.

Roberta Arbree asked about LED lighting. Gary Newfield advised that he attempted several times to contact a representative from Eversource and never did get in touch. Lauren Bradley advised that they will be replacing fixtures with downward facing LED lights as they break down. However, it would be too expensive to replace the lights now, as they are still in working order.

Adjournment: On a motion from Gary Newfield, seconded by Roberta Arbree, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

March 15, 2019