

Town of Randolph

Conservation Commission

Minutes of January 9, 2020

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

Members Excused: Walter Graff and Bruce Kirmmse

Others Present: John Scarinza

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:59 by Gary Newfield.

On a motion by Roberta Arbree, seconded by Nate Peters, the Commission voted to appoint Gary Newfield as Chairman of the Conservation Commission.

On a motion by Roberta Arbree, seconded by Nate Peter, the Commission voted to re-appoint Jen Barton-Scarinzza to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term to expire in 2023.

Gary Newfield advised that he and Roberta Arbree reviewed the budget to submit to the town. Newfield advised that \$300 was put into the general expense fund, part of which covers the fee to be a member of the State Conservation Commission. The minute taker position was budgeted at \$360, down from \$400 last year, as only \$300 was used this year. None of the \$1,000 budgeted last year for meetings and trainings was used, however it was kept the same, as some members may choose to attend the meeting for the state in November. The budget last year was \$1,750, and this year is \$1,760. The money that was not spent from last year will go to the Conservation Fund, which currently has a total of \$5,000. This can be used for buying land, studies, or invasive species projects, among other things. There is also \$225,000 currently in that account for the purchase of land for the Community Forest from Gorham.

John Scarinza reviewed the purchase of 206 acres from Gorham to be added to the Randolph Community Forest. This land is outside of Gorham's watershed and provides access to the Randolph Community Forest at the end of Jimtown Road. The \$225,000 for the purchase was provided through donations to the Randolph Opportunity Fund, which is managed by the NH Charitable Foundation. The deed will be drawn up soon and reviewed by the attorney, and a closing will be scheduled at the beginning of February. Roberta Arbree reminded the Commission that a Purchase and Sales Agreement would be needed, and that ownership would need to be deeded to the town, so that they will not have to pay the transfer tax. Scarinza advised that once the land is part of the Town Forest, it will become part of the stewardship plan.

John Scarinza also reviewed the new Wetland and Shoreland Overlay Districts, which will be voted on at town meeting this year. Scarinza advised that what exists now will be grandfathered and that these rules will apply to new construction. The overlay districts also allow for agriculture and forestry.

Lauren Bradley advised that Durand Road has been surveyed for the paving project that will likely occur next summer. There are three areas along the road that are designated as wetlands, and permits will need to be obtained from DES in order to repave. The permitting process is less expensive and quicker if the Conservation Commission signs a letter allowing the town to apply. Permits are not needed to replace culverts, other than the large cement ones.

John Scarinza advised that 12 culverts were replaced this year on the Pond of Safety road. This was a joint project with the Forest Service. They have identified four others that will need to be replaced and are working with the Randolph Foundation to apply for federal funding from NRCS. The survey work is done and they are in the process of engineering. Once the engineering work is done, they can apply for the funding, which will be between \$75,000-\$125,000.

Roberta Arbree asked about copies of the "Living on a Stream" brochure. Gary Newfield advised they had hoped to include it in the welcome packet sent to new property owners, however this is no longer done. It was suggested that it either be mailed in bulk to all property owners or included with the Foundation newsletter. Arbree suggested that the new Shoreland regulations also be included to make property owners aware of the changes.

Roberta Arbree advised that she sent an email to the realtor in reference to the lot for sale along the Israel River, advising them of the new Wetland and Shoreline Overlay Districts, so that they can pass this information along to anyone interested in purchasing the land.

Roberta Arbree advised the Commission that she spoke with Tara Bamford concerning the possibility of a requirement that a septic system would need to be installed when a property changes ownership along the river, and Bamford advised that this could not be done. John Scarinza advised that a new septic system would be required if there was an addition to the building, or if the use was converted to year-round rather than just summer use.

Minutes of July 11, 2019

On a motion by Jen Barton-Scarinza, seconded by Roberta Arbree, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of July 11, 2019 as presented.

Nate Peters asked about the timber harvest by the Pond of Safety and John Scarinza advised they started in higher elevations due to the weather. When a cold spell is predicted for a few weeks, they will switch. Scarinza advised there is some cherry, spruce, and ash, along with maple.

Adjournment: On a motion from Gary Newfield, seconded by Roberta Arbree, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

January 9, 2020