

Town of Groton Conservation Commission
754 North Groton Road
Groton, NH 03241

Meeting Minutes from 5/23/13

The Groton Conservation Commission convened at 6:40 PM. Members in attendance were Robert Ferriere, Stephen (Slim) Spafford and Nancy Watson. Deb Johnson, KHPAC and Planning Board member, and Miles Sinclair, KHPAC member and Selectmen were also in attendance.

Members absent were Louis Lieto and Paula Stata.

Robert Ferriere chaired the meeting. A quorum of members in attendance was lacking, so no official business was transacted.

Approval of draft minutes from the previous meeting was put off until the June meeting.

Deb Johnson provided an overview of the Natural Resource Inventory process. She recently attended a presentation in Alexandria for an inventory completed for the town by Jeff Littleton of Moose Lodge Ecological, LLC. Alexandria issued an RFP to five environmental firms who complete NRI's. The cost may run from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Alexandria awarded the contract to the second lowest bidder. (It was noted the Conservation Fund contains \$12,000 and the Conservation Commission budget contains \$600). The town may choose not to hire a professional, but rather use trained volunteers such as Americore, interns, etc. to complete the inventory. Guidance and publications to assist with a more detailed NRI may be obtained from UNH Cooperative Extension's website, along with the NH state Conservation Commission in Concord. The purpose of the inventory is to protect natural resources, such as plant, water and forestry, through inclusion in the town Master Plan, Zoning and Planning Board regulations.

Robert questioned how far out the Commission wishes to plan? We need a base to plan for the future.

The benefit to an inventory includes ease in periodic updates and changes, due to issues such as migrating moose moving north due to warmer temperatures and increase in invasive plants and insects. Updating is NECESSARY.

Robert questioned if there is a list available of firms who complete this type of work? Deb responded a list may be obtained through PSU and the NH State Conservation Commission.

The purpose of the Conservation Commission is to gather information as a resource for the KHPAC. The KHPAC may request certain information from such an inventory.

The logistics of gathering existing data and obtaining new data through fieldwork was discussed. Deb stressed the caution of the scope of the inventory. The town may own the report, but not the data; therefore, the town may not post the data. The town must be careful in the wording of the agreement with the firm.

Clean up of the town pond is scheduled for June 9th at 9:00 AM. Lou, Miles and Nancy committed to volunteer. FEMA funds are available to repair the bridge to the pond. The funding provided will be 75% through FEMA and 25% through the town. The work must be completed by the end of this year.

A question was asked if the Conservation Commission should be proactive in informing our neighbors? Slim suggested providing information to Jo O'Connor for her weekly newspaper column in the Record Enterprise.

Miles reported on his research of amended RSA 36-A: 4. He inquired with the LGC. He stated it was probably a good idea to obtain permission prior to accessing private land in keeping with the RSA. The revised statute addresses Conservation Commissions entering private property. Individuals are permitted to access the land without permission.

The meeting ended at 7:53 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Watson
Conservation Commission Co-Secretary
June 20, 2013