

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

Meeting Minutes from 7/18/13

The Groton Conservation Commission convened at 6:36 PM. Members in attendance were Robert Ferriere, Louis Lieto, Stephen (Slim) Spafford, Paula Stata and Nancy Watson. Miles Sinclair, KHPAC member and Selectman and Glen Hansen, Road Agent were also in attendance.

New Business included a discussion about the replacement of the bridge to access the town pond. Glen Hansen described the materials and work. The abutment blocks are manufactured at the concrete facility and set in place by a crane or backhoe. The size varies and depends on availability. The blocks are held together with rebar and anchoring cement. Glen estimated the work to take three weeks and the project must be completed by the end of this year. The town is still waiting for wetlands permit approval. The funds available are through FEMA and our town match, totaling \$14,000.

Lou suggested members review the minutes from the 6/20/13 meeting at home and the Commission will approve them at the August meeting.

Article 29 was passed at the 2008 town meeting. The area around and including the town pond (Map 5, Lot 62, Sub 1) was changed into conservation land and entrusted to the Conservation Commission. The Commission has the rights and responsibility to guide and review issues with the area. The town liability policy covers all town property, including the pond area.

Bob provided an update of the KHPAC. The Select Board is willing to adopt a revision of the language in section three of the confidentiality statement. They have sent the statement to the town lawyer, so she can approach Timber Vest. Deb Johnson will obtain a copy of the "report of cut" so a determination can be made of income from the timber. The records date back to 2005.

An estimate of appraisal for the Kimball Hill property will cost \$6,000. LCHIP is now fully funded and the town could possibly receive up to \$250,000 toward funding the property purchase.

KHPAC has requested to be on the agenda for the next CC meeting to discuss the guidance they wish to receive from the CC, i.e. financing some of the costs. Lou stated this is a worthwhile discussion when there are specific items with quantifiable amounts presented.

The discussion of a Natural Resource Inventory continued. Slim stated the individual who completed the Alexandria inventory did a good job. Interns and college volunteers should be considered when looking for assistance with the project.

Lou stated he would ask Pam Hamel to e-mail the CC a copy of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Lou is interested in drafting a letter directed to our three Representatives, requesting RSA 36-A:4, which governs CC's be revised. He feels it is too restrictive.

Lou will contact the state to obtain some extra copies of the Natural Resources Inventory Handbook.

Groton's CC is an automatic member of the Grafton County Conservation District. Lou will contact the District to find out how to become involved. Bob suggested the CC should first become involved with the District and then consider involvement with the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. Paula suggested investigating the cost for yearly membership and then decide. Lou will pursue this. Consideration was also given to the North Country Planning Council. Slim read their mission statement, but no decision was made.

There was an ongoing discussion of public awareness and the best method to achieve this goal. Once again, Jo O'Connor's weekly newspaper column was suggested, along with flyers and posters at the town office and recycle center. Lou wishes to start the public information process now. Paula suggested a public showing of the recently released "People's Forest".

New Business included the e-mail Chuck Stata sent to Lisa Donner at PSC, looking for interns and students who can assist the town with tasks including the Natural Resources Inventory. Lisa responded favorably and will talk with the town when she returns from traveling overseas.

Paula motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. Bob seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Watson
Conservation Commission Co-Secretary
July 23, 2013