

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

Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2014

The Groton Conservation Commission convened at 6:57 PM. Members in attendance were Robert Ferriere, Louis Lieto, Steve (Slim) Spafford, Paula Stata and Nancy Watson.

Miles Sinclair was absent.

The minutes from the November 14, 2013 meeting were reviewed and corrected. Under motions, the wording of "Administrative Assistant" was changed to "Town Treasurer" in the context of authorization for expenditure of Conservation Commission funds. The corrected copy will be sent to Pam.

Paula looked up the correct spelling for "Gemmill". The correct spelling will be reflected in meeting minutes, as there has been some confusion in the past.

Bob and Lou provided an update from the KHPAC. The appraisal services of Marsha Beecey have been obtained. Lou and Chuck Stata met with Ms. Beecey at the town hall and Chuck took her for a drive around the area. She is familiar with this type of land acquisition and is familiar with key figures. Lou urged CC members to attend the meeting of the KHPAC at which the report will be made available. The appraisal will include the value of the timber, as well as the property. Bob is waiting for the estimate, which is due to come through on January 14th. Lou suggested a joint CC/KHPAC meeting to discuss strategy for publicity and rollout of the property.

The CC budget is due to the town tomorrow. It has already been submitted. The Select Board questioned the mailing and postage line item of \$500. The funds are for a town-wide mailing to be provided by KHPAC.

The CC has a balance of \$104, which will be spent down. A warrant article will be submitted to eliminate this from happening in the future.

Lou questioned if any CC member had visited the town pond recently. The new bridge has been examined, although no one has ventured to the pond. Rails for the bridge will be installed and the area will be seeded in the spring. Extra funds will be required for these tasks. The CC will thank the town and Glenn Hansen for completing the work on time and within budget.

Bob reported on his attendance of the Grafton County CC meeting. The object of attending the meeting was to let the Commission know "we are here". Bob felt a lot of the topics discussed were over our heads and not really to our benefit. He thought it was nice to meet people with the same mindset and it would be advantageous to have the option to attend future meetings, if we feel we need to. He will write a note to the

director and ask if this would be permissible, which he feels will not be a problem. The Grafton County CC meets the 4th Wednesday of every month.

A conflict of meetings prevented attendance at the last scheduled Dorchester CC activity. Lou questioned members if the CC was interested in pursuing such activities. It was suggested we reciprocate the invitation and invite Dorchester to Groton, as well as attend a meeting there. Members expressed there may be greater benefit in conversing with our local CC's in the area, as apposed to attending the Grafton County CC meetings. Lou will draft a letter to the abutting towns' CC's.

Lou attended the last Select Board meeting at which numerous legislative bills had been received for the town's review. Bills relating to CC's included:

HB1100 – A bill establishing a committee to study the ownership of public entities of land for conservation purposes.

Lou believes the town owns the Groton Town Pond. Lou will write the sponsors of the bill to request more specific information. He will then solicit input from CC members via e-mail, due to time constraints.

HB1271 – A bill establishing a committee to study the powers and duties of CC's.

Bob will add his questions regarding these bills to the letter he drafts to the Grafton County CC.

Lou had a discussion with Pam regarding the proceeds generated from taking land out of current use. The CC receives 3% of the funds.

Bob and Nancy volunteered to form a subcommittee to help organize a "Town Pond Kick Off". Having a sign for the pond made for this event was suggested, along with the idea of a picnic, dedication, thank you, etc. Lou will look into the sign. He will also contact Jo O'Connor to include in her newspaper column an invitation for people to plan a fishing derby.

Lou contacted Vicki Kimball to determine who volunteered to make the pond. Vicki didn't know the exact names. The CC is open to a plaque if someone comes forward with this information.

Bob questioned whether something could be done to increase the water flow of the pond, which would encourage spawning of fish. Lou stated it would be more economical to stock the pond. Slim will contact the fish biologist at the New Hampton fish hatchery to determine options.

As stated previously, funds for a mailing were included in the budget. The purpose of the mailing will be to educate townspeople regarding Kimball Hill. Jo O'Connor will also include an article in her newspaper column. Other initiatives, if the town decides to negotiate, include a combination of activities before the vote, including a presentation to

get the message across, with a possible showing of the short version of “The Peoples’ Forest”. The idea of a collage set up for town voting on March 11th and town meeting on March 15th was suggested.

Saving Special Places will be offered on April 15th at the Laconia High School.

One additional correction was made to the November 14th minutes. Slim’s name was changed to “Steve” rather than “Stephen”. With “Town Treasurer” substituted for each reference to “Town Administrative Assistant”, Bob moved to accept the minutes. Paula seconded the motion. The motion passed Yes – 5, No – 0, Absent – 1.

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. Nancy seconded. The motion passed Yes – 5, No – 0, Absent – 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Watson
Conservation Commission Co-Secretary
January 14, 2014