

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

Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2014

The Groton Conservation Commission convened at 7:02 PM. Members in attendance were Robert Ferriere, Louis Lieto, Steve (Slim) Spafford and Nancy Watson. Additional Groton residents and/or prospective members in attendance included Jan Carruth, Joe Koslow, John Rescigno and Gina Rescigno.

There were no minutes from the October meeting. The meeting time was devoted to walking town owned properties. The minutes from the September 11, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Lou motioned to accept the minutes as written and Nancy seconded. The motion passed Yes - 4, No - 0.

Bob will speak with the town attorney to determine if there is any liability with limiting vehicular access to the town pond via blocks, boulders, etc. The CC is concerned about emergency equipment access to the pond area if the bridge is blocked. The option of a locked chain may be a more appropriate choice.

A review of the Walkabout was provided along with a detailed write up from Lou. In attendance for the event on November 30th were Bob Ferrier, Lou Lieto, John Rescigno, Gina Rescigno and Slim Spafford.

**Map 1/Lot 88 7.94 acres** - Bob suggested he would not do anything with the lot. Lou stated the land borders Faucher's property, who could be asked to provide a little land management, i.e. opening up the area to sunlight through cutting. Bob followed with a suggestion to erect a cell tower on the property. This would improve cell service in the area, as well as net the town some income. Two options were discussed. The first included research for the possible cell tower along with some forest management and the second as a last resort, to sell the property.

**Map 2/Lot 26 8.5 acres** - There is no current timber value. The balsam fir will be marketable in more than a decade. If no additional ideas are put forth, recommend the town sell the property with advertised snowmobile trail access.

**Map 10/Lot 29 5 acres** - Halls Brook runs through the rear of the property, making for an attractive setting. It was suggested the lot be made a recreation area for the town. There is a steep descent of approximately 30 feet to the small brook area, which would require the construction of a staircase. The project could be completed by area youth. Slim commented parking is an issue. He will check the property deed to determine if there is a right-of-way easement through the abutting lot. Lou will also follow up with Sara at the town hall for records of easement access.

Slim spoke with Mr. Berando about obtaining access through his property to the **Map 2/Lot 123 47 acres** off North Groton Road. The land is very steep and Mr. Berando volunteered to take members to the property. Lou suggested a written letter of permission, which he will draft. Mr. Berando's contact information is: 333 Old Hebron Road, Plymouth, NH , telephone 536-1964.

### **New Business -**

The CC currently has four members, with the full Commission allowing for seven. Four individuals have expressed interest in joining. The CC can choose to have an alternate, as there is no regulation against this. Interested parties must submit a letter of intent to the Select Board as soon as possible.

Lou attended and reported on the annual NHACC Meeting held on November 1st. He provided the CC a written summary of his thoughts. There were a good variety of speakers. Lou learned some new ideas on how to eradicate Japanese Knot Weed. An emphasis was placed on getting young people involved in conservation issues. Lou suggested the CC plan a youth-focused event at the Groton Town Pond.

The CC will ask the Select Board for permission to add a page on the town web site dedicated to the CC, which will require some financial resources for upkeep. Slim suggested this would be a good medium to advertise the town-wide clean up. In addition, it may be a good to ask the Select Board what they expect from the CC.

Jan suggested engaging local youth groups, such as the Youth Conservation Corps by offering a hike up Mount Cardigan, performing trail maintenance, clean up, etc. Joe suggested reaching out to PSU students and Lou repeated the CC's thoughts on having such students assist with the NRI. Slim also stated MIT has a camp off North Groton Road, which is frequented by the college students.

Joe stated there is an illegal tire dump behind the town park. The CC will ask the Select Board if this an issue they wish for the CC to pursue or place on low priority.

Nancy brought up the reconfigured EDPR Industrial Wind Project planned for Spruce Ridge. She wants a letter addressed to the Select Board from the CC addressing concerns. She provided a rough map showing the GPS locations of proposed turbines taken from the FAA website. The project has expanded to Kimball Hill, as well as the towns of Dorchester, Orange and Canaan. Hebron is no longer included, whereas Alexandria is. Lou will research any deed transfers or land leases to collect information and at a future time, the CC may decide to examine the locations of each turbine to assess any possible environmental impact.

Nancy suggested having Kate Barrett from Alexandria's Conservation Commission attend a Groton CC meeting. Lou suggested Kate attend the meeting scheduled for January 8th. All CC members were in agreement.

Slim informed the CC property owned by Victoria Collins was sold to Green Acres Woodlands. A representative from GAW told Slim they plan to retain the road, add the property to their abutting acreage and will subdivide and sell the house and a lot located at the "end" of the road. The land is not in a conservation easement, but the deed contains restrictions from commercial and industrial use.

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM. Lou seconded. The motion passed Yes - 4, No - 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Watson  
Conservation Commission Secretary  
November 19, 2014