

Pownal Conservation Commission
October 22, 2012

Attendees: Sherry Dietrich, Matt Welch, Derek Lovitch, Ruth Hannan and Selectman Tim Giddinge.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Matt and Tim discussed the culvert on the Sweetser property. Shawn Bennett, the Road Commissioner, will continue working on it.

Sherry spoke about how volunteers are covered by insurance. The Town has a liability policy that would cover them as long as they are supervised by the Pownal Conservation Commission. The Town's policy would pay some hospital bills after the person's own insurance claim payment.

Tim told us about the Route 9 property that came up in discussion (questioning how it changed hands and is no longer a Town-owned property). Per Tim, it was foreclosed many years ago (approx. 1954). The name of the owner at that time was Tibbetts. An abutter recently had it surveyed and they were told that they owned the foreclosed property. So the property reverted back to that abutter.

We discussed that the Pownal Conservation Commission might review Town-owned properties to suggest the best use of each property. We discussed our opinion of "best use" vs. our findings of the natural features of each property. It may make more sense for committee members to report on the natural features rather than suggest a "best use". It was suggested that we focus on Map 6 as we start this process. Properties include:

Map 6 Lot 62
Map 6 Lot 50
Map 6 Lot 67
Map 6 Lot 17 (on Elmwood, across from Golding Road)
Map 6 Lot 66

Per Tim: Map 5 Lot 50 may possibly be swapped with Lot 48. On Lot 48, there could be a parking lot to access the historic site of the mill (circa 1792). In this way, the parking lot would be visible from the road, which would make it less likely to be misused.

Tim suggested that we gather information on how a lot became Town-owned. Derek and Matt thought it would be good for each committee member to go to the properties on our own. Derek made a motion that we would look at the Town-owned properties on Map 6 and write up our findings. The motion passed.


Tim said that the Hallson subdivision road is in and has access point to possible house lots. On the adjoining Town-owned property, there is a lot of trash that has been dumped over the years (refrigerator, tires, etc.).

Tim, who is also a member of the snowmobile club, asked if we could take a look at the property off of the Hallson subdivision road. Because of a washed-out bridge, the snowmobile trail might be re-routed. Tim asked if we could take a look and offer our opinion of the property and the possibility of a trail running through it.

The committee plans to meet next on Saturday November 3rd, from 3pm until dark, in lieu of a meeting at Mallett Hall. The next committee meeting after that will be Monday, December 17th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,


Ruth Hannan