

**Town of Pownal Conservation Commission (CC) Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday February 28, 2023**  
**7:00 pm, Mallett Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Matt Welch, the following members were present: Dick Hogue, Janet Lynch, Kathy Elders, Matt Welch and Wellens King.

**Approval of minutes** from January meeting: The motion was made to approve the minutes submitted by Kate Day, all were in favor.

**Public Comment:** No members of the public present.

**Old Business:**

-**Map 8/ Lot 9** is still under dispute, no new information has come forth about the true ownership.

-**Hodsdon Mill Site-** Dick reported that there is still no word on whether or not the CC will be allowed to establish public parking to allow for easier access to the parcel.

-**Sweetser Road Wood Lot/ Royal River Conservation Trust-** Matt reported that the letter written to the Pownal Selectboard proposing the sale of the Sweetser Road woodlot to RRCT was not well received. Matt defended the CC's position on the sale of town-owned land to conservation trust stating that, after much research, it has been learned that the town can profit from selling land to a conservation trust and guarantee that the property will not be developed in the future. The CC continues to believe in the importance of preserving Pownal's rural character.

The feedback given to the CC was that transparency about meeting dates/ times has been poor for the past several years and that communication with the selectboard members has been insufficient. Several members of the CC reported that minutes had been submitted on time during 2022, and Dick Hogue reported that he had communicated the meeting schedule with the town clerk. Dick states that he will make sure to submit an agenda to the town clerk a week before the scheduled meetings in the future.

**New Business:**

-**Public Hearing: April 24:** Discussion was held regarding the need to write the Sweetser Road proposal to be submitted for public review. Wellens suggested that it might be worthwhile to know what revenue the town brought in the last time the parcel was treed. Dick will try and get this information.

Matt mentioned that he emailed the selectboard members asking about whether or not the proposed Rail to Trail system on the abandoned rail corridor would be on the warrant for the public hearing- he has not yet received a response.

Dick stated that it had been rumored in the past that there was a policy enacted in the 1970's preventing the sale of town-owned property. He will research this further in the coming weeks to determine if there is any validity to this rumor.

**Correspondence:**

- **Pisgah Hill North:** Matt suggested that we reach out to Adam with RRCT to further discuss the possibilities for this parcel, accessed from Fickett Rd.. Discussion was had about making sure the parcel is left undisturbed, not allowing placement of parking areas or trails keeping the abutting property owners in mind.

**Adjourn:** Matt thanked all members for attending. The next meeting date of March 28th was noted, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wellens King.