

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Matt Welch, Dick Hogue, Kate Elders, Janet Lynch, Marika Clark, Rosemary Whitney

Meeting Called to Order; 7:04pm 1/28/20

Minutes of last meeting 11/26/19 Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Map 9 Lot 43 Survey and Logging Plan:

Dick brought plan to be recorded at Registry of Deeds and a new stamped original is required by the Registry. Surveyor John Mann was contacted and will supply, but not yet received. Dick will contact John in a week. Once received will resubmit to Registry.

State requires a "Forest Operation Notification" form to be submitted. Dick will meet with our forester, Jeremy, to fill out. Jeremy will be the "designated agent" and "licensed forester", and Dick Hogue will be our contact.

Logging Operation: Matt contacted loggers and they have been delayed due to weather. Matt informed them we are in no rush and prefer to have good conditions to minimize impact on the terrain. Matt also asked them to look at the yarding area to see if adequate as we would need lead time to work with the Town road crew to modify if necessary.

Janet brought up concern: do they clean their equipment between logging locations to minimize possibility of transmitting diseases such as woolly algeid (since their current job is on the coast) Dick noted? on his notes.

b. Map 9 Lots 11 & 14 "School Lots": No change

c. Map 2 Lots 30 & 32 Poland Range Rd: Survey in process.

NEW BUSINESS;

a. Map 7 Lots 43 & 45 Hodsdon Rd.: Abutting lot appears to have been sold and it appears that the Town lot is being used to access the rear of the lot. Also, a boat appears to be stored on Town property. Town Lots have not been surveyed, but abutting property owners are working with surveyors to clarify boundaries and hopefully will provide us with property line information that will clarify ownership. Discussion of importance of maintaining surveillance of Town lands for use and misuse and the potential need of next steps to remedy any transgressions. Marika will research ownership and any survey information available.

b. Discussion of Trails on Town Owned Lands: Janet reported that Alan Stearns of RRCT was interested in discussing with the PCC adding some of the trails on Town Owned Lands to RRCT maps. Matt said that PCC and Alan had met with the Selectmen several years ago on the same subject and had received a strong negative response, and therefore somewhat cautious about proceeding immediately with this move. Discussion about issues of larger regional trail use vs quiet Town use? Linking of trails throughout surrounding towns a current movement, but does this foster or weaken "Rural Character". Also issues of increased public use: who maintains, who monitors trails. Marika brought up from her professional experience of working with Pineland the importance of legal informational sign at entrance to any town

property trail. Conversely, how do we get local folks to be aware and utilize these Town lands? Also, wildlife habitat vs trails.

c. Hodsdon Mill Property: Discussion of reviving the project of improving this site by furthering clearing of brush, a simple walking trail, a fishing spot, and limited parking as earlier defined in a plan developed with Dick Clark. Dick Hogue mentioned that this a perfect time to get in and do site improvement. Matt told the Comm. that we have previously had two Earth day clean ups on the site, so some improvement had been accomplished.

d. Letter from RRCT Alan Stearns re: including local place names on RRCT map. RRCT owns a property down the "Old Harris Rd" now a woods road (which runs past the cemetery and land that is actually owned by the Cemetery Commission and not the Town. Not all members received this letter and no conclusion was reached in regard the RRCT's inquiry.

Meeting Adjourned: 8: 20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Whitney