

Town of Pownal Conservation Commission (CC) Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 25, 2023
7:00 pm, Mallett Hall

The meeting was called to order by Matt Welch at 7:08 pm, and the following members were in attendance: Matt Welch, Dick Hogue, Janet Lynch, Kathy Elders, and Wellens King. Community member Marie Wendt was also present.

Public Comment: Marie Wendt states that she is present to learn more about the duties and vision of the Conservation Commission and about land conservation in general.

Old Business:

-Map 8, Lot 9-

The Selectboard members have requested that each of the town committees give their opinions as to what should be done with the aforementioned lot. A resident of North Yarmouth is interested in acquiring the lot as it abuts his property. After some discussion, Matt Welch moved to reject the proposal to sell the land, and to instead propose a long term lease agreement with the North Yarmouth resident, including stipulations regarding development and ecological conservation.

Dick Hogue will draft a statement to submit to the selectboard echoing our position.

-Public Hearing, April 24-

Discussion was held summarizing the town meeting held last night. The consensus was that most who contributed to the discussion at the meeting were in favor of conservation easements vs. land transfer. Discussion was held regarding timing- would more than one property be considered- or would Royal River Conservation Trust even be interested in property other than the Sweetser Rd. parcel? The suggestion was made that we would most likely begin with one parcel to see how the process goes. Other questions regarding easements were brought up including compensation, continued financial obligations and legal costs. Matt suggested that we invite Alan Stearns and Adam Pereira from RRCT to further discuss the particulars associated with conservation easements. It was also suggested that sometime in the near future the direct land abutters should be contacted so that they can be included in the discussion. It was suggested that we do this after collecting more information. The question was raised of whether or not there are other conservation trusts that we might consider contacting? Matt mentioned Maine Conservation Collaborative and states that he will try and contact them as well. In conclusion, the CC members felt that town committees all

seem to be in agreement with the town's comprehensive plan which focuses on conserving the rural character of the town.

Matt thanked all who were in attendance, and adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wellens King