

Conservation Commission Meeting

December 8, 2016, 7:00 pm

Attending: Kathy Schillemat, Chair, David Patek, Tom

Newcombe, Gary Robinson, Anne McBride, Alternate, Zach Pearo, Alternate. Rick Church was absent.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved with corrected budget numbers. It was noted that at the last meeting, the commission had approved a budget of \$1000; however, the line items as listed in the draft minutes added up to \$1050. So the minutes were approved with corrections in the line items. In addition, when the budget was presented to the selectmen, they suggested a higher amount to reflect a more realistic amount for legal costs (if needed), so the total operating budget for the conservation commission for 2017 reflects their suggestion and was approved by selectmen.

Kathy reported on two trips to the clear cut 20 acres on the 580 acre property to be acquired in 2017. The view of Mount Monadnock and the potential for blueberry bushes are highlights of this area. In addition, there are possible opportunities for educational projects for local students. John Bunce called Kathy earlier this week to say that he has visited and is interested in helping to clear the slash and prepare the site, when we make definite plans for this particular part of the property. Since the Harris Center still owns the land, their approval is needed to do any work at this time. But winter is a good time to do such work. Kathy will get in touch with Jeremy Wilson, Harris Center Executive Director, to visit the site and to discuss approval to do some work this winter.

LWCF grant amendment: in order to receive reimbursement for work on the parking lots, trails, and kiosks on the 580 acres, the grant application needed to be amended to include these improvements. Original approval was for the land acquisition costs only. Richard Church has prepared and submitted the amendment to Bill Gegas today.

Milfoil Prevention Expendable Trust Fund warrant article: the commission members approved wording the warrant article the same as in 2016, with \$5000 in Milfoil Prevention Expendable Trust Fund, the majority of the money to support the Lake Host programs at Silver, Granite, and Nubanusit Lakes.

Kathy shared a copy of a letter to the Chesney family from the DES, regarding a dock and wharf on their property on Nubanusit Lake. A complaint was received by the DES and they have no record of a permit for the dock and wharf and will be investigating. No action is required on the part of the Conservation Commission.

Wetlands permit applications and keeping the Conservation Commission informed and able to comment in a timely manner: Gary will come up with draft policy so that when wetland permits come into the

town office, the commission will receive notification and have opportunity to comment and/or conduct site visits before the application is sent to the DES. He will send the draft to all Cons. Comm members for review and will present to the other selectmen at their next meeting on Wednesday. Kathy will attend to comment.

Wetlands Permit process: Kathy will contact the DES to see if a representative could attend an upcoming meeting to give the commission more information and clarification on our role in the process. Questions we would like answered include "What do we need to be looking for? What are our options?"

A town Ordinance on fireworks is under consideration. Gary will circulate the draft ordinance and, if it is appropriate, the Conservation Commission may consider commenting on the environmental implications of fireworks and the merits of the ordinance. A public hearing has not yet been scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm. The next meeting will be January 12, 2017.

Kathy