Nelson Conservation Commission

Meeting June 11, 2015

Minutes

Draft

Chairman, pro tem, Tom Newcombe called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

Present were: Rick Church, Dave Patek, Tom Newcombe, Susan Hansel (alternate and selectmen’s representative) and Anne McBride (alternate.) Also present were Stephen Froling and Jeremy Wilson of the Harris Center for Conservation Education.

Tom Newcombe reviewed the agenda: Approval of minutes of past meetings, discussion of the possible acquisition of land from Ethan Tolman, consideration of a request from the Silver Lake Land Trust for a contribution toward the acquisition of a piece of land on Silver Lake in Harrisville and a report of a grant received from the Quabbin to Cardigan (Q2C) Partnership.

Chairman Newcombe moved the acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of April 9th. Second by Rick Church. Motion passed.

Chairman Newcombe introduced the topic of the Tolman land acquisition.

Rick Church moved that the Commission move into non-public session including Stephen Froling and Jeremy Wilson under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. The motion was seconded by Dave Patek and the meeting moved into non-public session at 7:10

The meeting returned to public session at 8:16.

Dave Patek moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session including a briefing document detailing the state of the negotiations prepared by the Harris Center for Conservation Education. The motion was seconded by Susan Hansel and passed unanimously.

There followed an informal discussion of the need for and benefits of having a fund raising drive to support the Tolman land acquisition project as a way of building community support.

Grant request from the Silver Lake Land Trust:

This item had been presented and discussed at the May meeting of the NCC. The Town of Nelson has never passed the warrant article required authorizing the Conservation Commission to spend town funds on projects outside of Nelson. Reservations about the project itself were expressed by several members: that access by the public could be restricted by owners present and future. It was mentioned that agriculture was not allowed anywhere in the approximately 185 acre property. Dave Patek moved to decline the request and ask Kathy Schillemat to write a letter to the Silver Lake Land Trust to that effect. Seconded by Susan Hansel. Passed

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2015. Moved by Dave Patek that the public and non-public minutes of the meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Susan Hansel and passed.

Q2C Grant:

Susan Hansel shared a letter received from the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership indicating that the Commission had received a grant on behalf of the Nelson Trail Group in the amount of $2025.18 for trail work in Nelson in 2015. The grant requires a match of $507 from the Commission. The Commission had previously voted to contribute the entire balance of the “Kia Iselin Fund” ($683) at its May 14th meeting meaning that the Trail Group will have $2688.18 for its projects.

Rick Church reported on a discussion by the Moving in Step (MIS) board of directors about acting as a fiscal agent for the project. The issue is that the Q2C funds will be received 30 days after receipt of all the receipts covering the work done under the grant. Moving in Step has agreed to advance the money required submitting receipts for proper expenses under the grant to the Town for reimbursement. MIS will collect all project receipts for Commission review and submission for reimbursement.

Motion to adjourn: Dave Patek second, Anne McBride. Passed 9:05PM