

Nelson Conservation Commission  
Meeting July 29, 2015  
Minutes

Draft

Tom Newcombe called the meeting to order at 7:07PM. Present were Conservation Commission members: Susan Hansel (selectman's representative and alternate) Anne McBride (alternate), Dave Patek, Tom Newcombe and Rick Church. Jeremy Wilson of the Harris Center for Conservation Education was also present.

Tom Newcombe introduced the subject of the proposed conservation easement between the Town of Nelson and the Harris Center (HCCE) with regard to the purchase of land on Osgood and Hurd Hills from Ethan Tolman. NCC wants a partnership for the conservation of any land the town might acquire, but is concerned that the resulting process be neither unnecessarily restrictive nor cumbersome to administer. He indicated that a good test of an agreement would be whether the public could understand and support the document.

Jeremy Wilson replied that the draft easement was just a starting point or "straw man" put forward as a place to begin.

Rick added that we may need plans for some, few, activities and just permission to operate independently in other areas.

Tom Newcombe said we should consider HCCE as a partner who could back up the work we are doing should the Town of Nelson suddenly lose interest or attempt to act irresponsibly.

Jeremy Wilson agreed and added that a stewardship plan was an attempt to provide a means for changing our ideas on management going forward rather than enshrine too many restrictions in an easement we couldn't change later.

Dave Patek wanted to know how often a stewardship plan would be written and how often revised. That seemed pretty flexible.

Jeremy suggested we agree what wasn't permitted absolutely, what was permitted at Nelson's discretion and what areas required joint understandings.

Numerous examples were discussed to test this concept e.g. tree farms, ATV usage, tent platforms and others. It seemed plans would be useful to deal with difficult issues or issues that might endanger core conservation values or undertakings to the LWCF grant.

It was agreed that NCC members would review the proposed conservation easement and sort the issues into those three categories. A future meeting of NCC would be used to get an understanding on how the NCC sees this before meeting with HCCE. Rick will forward a copy of the draft conservation to NCC members.

It was suggested the meeting review the financial terms of the proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement between HCCE and the Town of Nelson.

Dave Patek moved to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, for the purpose of discussing land acquisition. The motion was seconded by Anne McBride and the meeting moved into non-public session at 8:18PM

The meeting returned to open session at 8:55PM

Rick Church moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session; Tom Newcombe seconded the motion. Tom called the roll and all voted in favor of the motion to seal the minutes.

Susan Hansel raised the issue of a DES permit for the town's project of rebuilding a bridge that carries Bailey Brook under Old Stoddard Road. The DES has raised a number of issues and Mike Tarr, the Nelson Road agent, has asked the Nelson Conservation Commission to review the situation and write a letter of support for the town's plan. There was a brief discussion of the issues identified by DES and Rick distributed the DES letter and some email material relating to some of the engineering issues raised by DES. He also distributed a draft letter he suggested NCC consider and indicated that Mike Tarr had seen the letter.

The Commission will read the material and take action at its 8/11/2015 meeting. Mike Tarr must have the Town's response to DES by 8/17th

The meeting adjourned at 9:14

Rick Church  
Secretary