

MEETING MINUTES

Barrington Conservation Commission
December 17, 7:00 PM
Barrington Elementary School Library, Rte 125

PRESENT: John Wallace, Chair
Pam Failing, Vice-chair
Marika Wilde
Anne Melvin

ABSENT: Ken Grossman
Alison Desmarais, Alternate
Peter Sandin, Alternate
Glenn Gould, Alternate
Dan Ayer, Alternate
Susan Gaudiello, Selectmen representative

CALL TO ORDER

Barrington Conservation Commission (BCC) Chair John Wallace called the meeting of December 17, 2015 to order at 7:10.

DELEGATION OF VOTING MEMBERS Chair John Wallace confirmed the presence of members as above.

- 1) Sightings There was mention of a number of birds at feeders and a report of an opossum doing a road crossing. Pam shared an article on turtles noting that in NH there are seven species of turtles, four of which are protected, and the presence of the endangered spotted turtle indicates good water quality.
- 2) Guests:
- 3) Approval of minutes of December 3 **Anne Melvin made a motion to approve the minutes of December 3 as amended. Marika Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of four (4) to zero (0) in favor.**
- 4) Complaints:
- 5) Old Business
 - a) Conservation Projects:
 - i) Stonehouse Forest:
 - (1) SELT would like us to add another \$20K commitment to the project from the conservation fund, so total would be \$220K
LCHIP is committed to contributing \$420,000 to the Stonehouse Forest project. There is \$230,000 left in the existing conservation bond, which was approved in 2005, and the BCC has approved \$200,000 from the conservation fund. It has been suggested that for now the town should commit \$450,000 to the project, so SELT is requesting that the BCC commit another \$20,000 to make the \$450,000 total. **Marika Wilde made a motion to add \$20,000 from the conservation fund for the Stonehouse Forest**

project. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of four (4) to zero (0) in favor.

(2) Recommend to selectmen that we use existing conservation bond (\$230K)

Use of the \$230,000 bond was discussed in item (1). It was mentioned that SELT will be the owner of the Stonehouse parcel, Fish and Game will hold the easement, and the town will be the executory easement holder. **Pam Failing made a motion to approach the Selectmen and request we utilize the balance on the \$230,000 bond toward the Stonehouse Forest project. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of four (4) to zero (0) in favor.** John will write a memo to the Selectmen recommending this.

(3) Schedule public hearing for item (2) to discuss use of the bond for this property. After discussion it was decided that the public hearing could be scheduled for Jan 7.

ii) Renna property: placing easement on this (and Leahy) will require town vote

b) Calef Isinglass River Preserve

i) Parking area & improvement to Town Farm Road for access to Calef Preserve. Update on cost? Pam will be meeting with Peter Cook.

c) FEMA remapping of flood zones: want info on environmentally sensitive areas (Anne) The group looked at the co-occurrence map and compared this to the map provided by Peter Cook and Rick Walker that shows areas of flooding in the past. The areas of most environmentally sensitive concern were identified by the group. Anne stated that particular attention should be given to fluvial erosion zones. John suggested that FEMA refer to the co-occurrence map and the new wildlife action plan map Anne will compile the information, noting areas of greatest concern, and send it to FEMA.

d) Con Com Facebook page (Glenn)

e) Planning Board:

i) 17-lot conservation subdivision on Tolend Rd. (Chestnut Forest): do we want to hold an easement or title to land? Idea was turn over title of open space to town. There was discussion of whether the town might take the conservation easement, which requires monitoring of the property, or the open space can be deeded to the town as conservation land. One option is for ownership of the open space to go to the homeowners association, but this can be problematic if homeowners associations cease to exist. John recommended against putting a conservation easement on the land or if it is owned by a homeowners association. The group came to the consensus that the best solution is to give the open space to the town with deed restriction. **Anne Melvin made a motion to recommend to the selectmen that the town take ownership of the open space in the Chestnut Forest subdivision. Marika Wilde seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of four (4) to zero (0) in favor.**

f) Wilson property for sale (on Mendums, abuts Jeffrey and Brookwood Shores)

A previous offer has been rescinded, and a realty group is researching access to the property.

g) Easement monitoring (Ken)

h) Calef property: what do we want to allow? (Alison and Pam)

6) New Business:

a) Schedule for meetings in 2016

b) Town report due soon John will work on this.

c) Planning Board: consideration of zoning amendments John referred to the memo sent earlier to the PB (Dec. 3) in which the CC stated it could not support the proposed change to the zoning ordinance regarding wetland buffers/setbacks. The concern brought up was that this

change could seem to weaken wetland protection. He has since discussed this with Marcia, and she has assured him that this is not the case. John will review this.

- d) ZBA
- e) Report on NHANRS meeting on statewide wetlands buffers (Pam) Pam reported that a scientific group, promoted by DES and environmental groups, has established criteria for identifying and defining wetland areas to protect. From these criteria it is possible to have recommendations for buffers. The next step is to get this into legislation on a statewide basis. John made a point that the criteria should include not just identified prime wetlands, but all wetlands of value. Should statewide legislation pass, it would nullify town ordinances.
- f) \$2200 donation to conservation fund John will donate his monitoring fees to the Conservation Fund. The group expressed a thank you to John.
- g) NHACC meeting Nov. 7: reports from John
- h) Forest Laws workshop: report from John
- i) Dredge and Fill applications
- j) Treasurer's report (Pam)
- k) Legislative updates (Ken)
- l) Start thinking about goals for 2016
 - i) Calef 'roll-out' to public, trail work, restoration, etc.
 - ii) Conservation Plan
- 7) Announcements/correspondence:
 - a) DES: notice of wetlands violation on Longshore Dr.
- 8) Other committees: Trails Committee, IRLAC, ORLAC
- 9) Easements:
- 10) Next scheduled meeting: January 7

Items remaining on agenda, but not expected to be discussed at this meeting:

- a) Emerald Acres (Topaz Dr.)
- b) Conservation Projects:
 - i) Barr property, 58 acres, Seavey Bridge Rd.
 - ii) Cook property
 - iii) Cullen Woods property – town has taken title to open space

Pam Failing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35. Anne Melvin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with a vote of four (4) to zero (0) in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Lenzi

NOTE: THESE ARE SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES ONLY. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE MEETING AUDIO IS AVAILABLE AT THE LAND USE DEPARTMENT.