

BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting of June 11, 2014

Members in attendance: Emily Schmalzer, Heather Gilbert, Jody Kaufman, Heather Dudley-Tatman, and Rob Wofchuck, chair

Selectmen's Rep in attendance: none

Alternates in attendance: Randal Davis and Reid Bunker

Meeting convened at 7:05PM.

Wofchuck moves to give Davis and Bunker voting rights, the motion is seconded by Schmalzer and passed.

The April 9, 2014 minutes were moved by Gilbert and seconded by Kaufman. The motion passed. Bunker abstained.

Wofchuck presented a bill for the April Cleanup event for \$35. Gilbert moved to pay bill. Bunker seconded and the motion passed.

Wofchuck presented the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELTNH) proposal for Stewardship Services for 2014. This proposal is to supplement an existing contract for the aerial monitoring of 21 conservation easements. Under the supplemental proposal the SELTNH would follow up on stewardship issues identified during the 2013 easement monitoring, organized and update existing files for 9 of the easements, and complete current condition reports for two easements. The total estimate was for \$4,042 to \$4,442. Following discussion Kaufman moved to authorize Wofchuck to schedule a Public Hearing to discuss using the Conservation Fund to fund the contract with the SELTNH for these services for up to \$5,000. Schmalzer seconded and the motion passed.

Wofchuck provided an update on the Green Infrastructure Project Grant. The first phase of the project at the library has been completed. The storage tank with cistern for garden, filter bed, and signage remain.

UNH has offered to prepare a grant application for a 319 grant to implement addition projects identified during the Green Infrastructure Project. Wofchuck will be meeting with Selectmen and highway department to obtain support.

The RCCD has selected a site in Brentwood for a pilot study of a new method of nitrogen removal from septic systems. The highway department will provide labor and equipment in support of this grant.

The ARM grant for Prescott Road wetland restorations will not be pursued as initial feedback from NH DES was negative. It was recommended that a culvert evaluation be completed in support of a future ARM grant application.

Potential Wetland Violation at Homestead Lane (tax Map 206 Lot 34) was discussed. It has been noted that there is sand in the wetlands and wetland buffer. NH DES has completed an inspection. There is a current ZBA variance request for a house and septic design at this lot. The requested variance would waive the buffer and allow for development. Upon discussion and as there is a current building plan for this lot which does not require a variance, Gilbert moves to have Wofchuck prepare a letter to the ZBA stating that the commission does not support the release from the buffer. Kaufman seconds and the motion passed.

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Residential Inquiries were made:

1. 396 Middle Road asked for clarification on what landscaping is allowed to be done since they are on the Exeter River. Town states no disturbance with 75 feet of River. The state regulations allow for the removal of invasive species and adding native vegetation. Wofchuck has noted that the town should re-evaluate this portion of the town regulations to allow for the proper management of invasive species.
2. 172 South Road wants to put in a dug pond. The commission has no jurisdiction and Wofchuck referred them to the Planning Board.

Open Space Update:

1. Donald and Wofcuck attended SELTNH Strategic Plan Meeting. This meeting updated the need to update the spreadsheet on open space priorities in the town.
2. Wofchuck received a call regarding a property on Lake Road and the possibility of placing a Conservation Easement on it. Wofcuck completed a preliminary evaluation and the property does not rank high. There is no funding currently available for this kind of easement.

Wofchuck and Kaufman presented an update of the land use activities that are occurring on the Stevens easement. The land was to be mowed for hay and is now fenced for animal grazing. The commission discussed public access and use of town-owned easements. Upon discussion the commission will look into land management plans for all town-owned lands.

At 8:32 PM Gilbert moved to adjourn, Kaufman seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Dudley-Tatman