

Conservation Commission February 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes, **Draft**

Location: Town Hall

Present: Shawn Hanson, Chair, James Kibler, Mary Ann Hill, Cathy Golas, Lou Gargiulo, Karen Ayers

Absent: Paul Melanson, Nancy Roka, Bethany McAvoy, Dale Ohsberg, Glen Schrempf, Rob Weiner

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Shawn has retired as chairman for the Commission. J. Kibler spoke in appreciation for all Shawn has done for the Commission. Shawn had compiled a comprehensive list of duties performed by the chair for the benefit of his successor. No one person stepped forward so these duties will be divided among all the commissioners: Meetings will be run by M. Hill; K. Ayers will field all code enforcement questions and violations; J. Kibler will participate in the annual monitoring walks of our conservation easements; and Shawn will continue to report on Planning Board topics as well as coordinating maintenance of Town conservation land (mowing, haying). Other duties will be shared by the members as needed. Contact person has been Shawn's personal email. Discussed setting up new site.

We reviewed a letter from Vicky Nelson District Manager of RCCD. She reported that Mike would be willing to assist with site walks for setback checks and possible setback violations. Depending on the nature of the consult the cost would either be a flat fee of \$120, or \$95/hour for time in the field, travel and reporting.

Roadside Cleanup: Discussed date, usually the week before LAS spring break. Will check on date, April 18 or 25. R. Winer has the big sign and other supplies, Town arranges for the dumpster.

Shawn checked interest rates at other banks and recommended that we allow the CD rollover at the 1.65% at Peoples United Bank.

Shawn reported that we have received \$50,000 of current use payments.

M. Hill would like us to consider a warrant article for next year to build up funds for future land purchases or for stepping up maintenance of Town lands to include control of invasive plants and improved trails.

J. Kibler reported on a fund raising opportunity at the Community Oven in Hampton. They set up for a raffle on Mondays with the proceeds going to 501-3c organizations. Will check to see if the town can participate for the Toppan Lane/Clay Brook conservation easement project. Will suggest to Forest Society too. We would need to sign up for a specific date and promote event on the Friends of Hampton Falls site.

The Timberland Sample Sale was cancelled due to a death.

J. Kibler reported that we have received a total of \$24,235 private money and grants toward the Clay Brook project. This includes calendar sales and wine glass sales.

S. Hanson will be at Candidates night at the library promoting our wine glasses. He also suggested having a winetasting social to sell the glasses possibly at the reopened restaurant at Applecrest.

The Reises are organizing a walk Sunday the 23rd. They are hoping to form a committee to help with the Clay Brook project.

We received a letter from the Library confirming two tables for Conservation at their Earth Day Fair on April 22 from 5 to 7 PM. We'll be next to the Forest Society Table. No sales allowed.

K. Ayers reported that Mary Ganz is writing the new deeds for the property on Depot Rd. donated to the town. M. Ganz is donating her services. We will send her two of our Wine glasses as a thank you.

K. Ayers reported on the trail maintenance event at the Raspberry Farm. They worked two dates because of a conflict with the deliberative session. She reported that the turnout was good and productive.

Next target is Marsh Lane.

C. Golas still working on the handout. Resolution on the map has been a problem. Needs a license to use the GIS app. James will help with that.

Minutes from January 14th were reviewed. S. Hanson made a motion they be accepted as written, M. Hill seconded. All approved.

The March meeting will be rescheduled to March 17th at 6:30 PM due to voting on March 10th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Hill

