

## Conservation Commission – January 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Location: Town Hall, Hampton Falls, NH

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 P.M.

Present: Mary Ann Hill, Shawn Hanson, Cathy Golas, Robert Wiener, Karen Ayers

Absent: James Kibler, Lou Gargiulo, Selectman, and Nancy Roka, alternate

Guests: Steven Hurd, Patrick and Katie Casey

Staff Present: Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator

Mary Ann appointed Karen Ayers a voting member.

### Raspberry Farm

- Steve Hurd reviewed the mowing and fertilizing agreement. The timeframe for mowing was clarified as there was a discrepancy written in the agreement. It was also clarified that Mr. Hurd will pay for the fertilizer and wood ash (if allowed in the easement) or lime to use on the parcel. The agreement will be reviewed again by Steve and then corrected and finalized. It will then get approved by the Selectman.
- Mary Ann Hill, Chairwoman called "Artistic Brass" for the memorial plaque for Glenn and shared the picture of the tractor along with the wording that would be on the plaque. Glenn's family has been notified. It will be \$595.
  - *Shawn Hanson moved to spend up to \$600 for the plaque for Glenn to be placed at Raspberry Farm. Robert Wiener seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.*
- Karen Ayers reported that she continues to hear and receive complaints about dog poop at Raspberry Farm. Mr. Hanson noted there are several dog trainers and dog walkers that bring their dog(s) to be off leash in the fields. Ms. Ayers noted that the land is agricultural land and the easement protects the agricultural activities. Dogs do not have any agricultural value. The Commission agreed it would be good to focus on establishing and formalizing rules for this land and other conservation land in town. The Commission agreed that the first step should be to put signs up at the property reminding visitors to pick up their dog poop.
  - *Mr. Hanson moved to spend up to \$75 for "scoop your dog's poop" signs for Raspberry Farm and Marsh Lane. Ms. Ayers seconded. All in favor. Motion passes*

### Violation behind 34 Coach Lane, M 8 Lot 83-6

- Patrick and Katie Casey who live at 34 Coach Lane were present at the meeting.
- Mary Ann Hill, Chairwoman; Mark Sikorski, Building Inspector; and Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator have all visited the lot.
- It was clarified that the town lot behind the Casey's home is a town lot but has no conservation restrictions in the deed.
- Mary Ann explained the restrictions on this parcel because of the wetland and the importance of taking appropriate steps.
- It was identified that Mr. Casey knows his property lines, they are clearly marked. He has cleared some trails by leaf blowing on his own lot but has not leaf blown on the town lot. He explained that his son has used his four-wheeler on the town lot. There is a picnic table there which is allowed to stay. The lot is a prime wetland and any ATV usage would be a state violation that would be handled by the state. Brianna O'Brien will reach out to Eben Lewis at the NHDES for next steps.

- It was also noted by the Commission that most people are not aware of the wetland restrictions. The Town Wetland Markers (where they are posted) are not informative. Most areas don't have markers at all. When some of the older (more than 10 years) developments were built next to wetlands the rules were different and markers weren't required. Coach Lane is one example. Wellington Farms is another. Also, Prime wetlands were only identified and voted on in 2007, and all Rivers and their headwaters are protected under the Shoreland Protection Act. These last two types of wetlands are under DES Wetland Bureau jurisdiction. So Patrick grew up in Hampton Falls when the rules were different, and when he came back he didn't know that.

### **Conservation Coordinator updates**

- Ms. Hill reviewed the running to do list that Mr. Hanson put together. Some things are already completed.
- Ms. Hill, Cathy Golas and Ms. O'Brien organized a date to meet with Taylor Foley to review the town GIS account and relevant projects.
- Ms. O'Brien is in communication with Peter DeSantis from Comprehensive Trail Services for developing a trail system within the Town Forest. Mr. DeSantis worked in Hampton Falls 2016. He can do a wide range of work in terms of trail construction. Ms. O'Brien will keep the Commission updated with the process.
- Ms. O'Brien also shared that she is working on establishing a database with all of the town owned land and conservation land with relevant information about each lot.

### **Reports**

- Planning Board: Mr. Hanson is not re-running for his position on the Planning Board. Mr. Hanson is going to check if the time frame for signing up to run is closed. It is still possible to be appointed as an alternate, which often become voting members. It was noted that it has been helpful to have a Commission Member on the Planning Board.
- SHEA: Mr. Hanson reported they are always looking for new members.

### **Financial Reports**

- Ms. Hill reported the budget and fund balances as of December 31, 2021. Budget Balance: \$5,446.03. Fund Balance: \$155,791.10
- The Boy Scouts have not yet billed the Commission. Mr. Hanson suggested requesting the invoice from them.

### **Conservation potential**

- The lots at Brown Rd. and Old Stage that were purchased and the subdivision plans were approved however there has been no action since. James Kibler was going to reach out to the developer and see if there was any conservation interest. Mr. Hanson does not believe the project has been abandoned. Their Planning Board approval is good for a few more years.

### **Minutes**

- Minutes from November 9, 2021 were reviewed.

- *Mr. Hanson motioned to approve the November 2021 minutes as written. Ms. Golas seconded. All approve. Motion passes.*

*Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Ayers. All in favor. Motion passes.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

***Brianna O'Brien*; Conservation Coordinator**