

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 7, 2020
7:00pm via WebEx**

Present: Diane Wimmer, Jeannine Noel, Dana Heilemann, Carolyn Teed-Ives, and April Lamothe; Recording Secretary

Also Present: Rick Ives, Jana Roberson, Paul Archer, and Bob Delcua

1) **Call to Order:** Diane Wimmer called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Jeannine Noel made a motion to correct the agenda to state August instead of September minutes. Dana Heilemann seconded the motion.

2) **Minutes of August:** Carolyn Teed-Ives made a motion to approve the August 3, 2020 minutes. Dana Heilemann seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

3) **Budget 2020:** Nothing to address

4) **New Business:**

a) **Schedule for next year (see below):** Dana Heilemann made a motion to accept the proposed schedule of meeting dates for 2021. Carolyn Teed-Ives seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

b) **Subdivision Reviews:** Diane Wimmer reminded the Commission that they have the choice of fee in lieu of open space or easement. The proposed easement is adjacent to land the Town currently owns. Bob Delcua said that the subdivision is four lots on Beecher Rd and one lot on Rukstela Rd. He mentioned that people currently use Blackwell Brook for fishing, which goes through the proposed open space easement that can be used for recreation by people. The Town owns the land abutting the proposed easement which would give people access to the easement.

Rick Ives commented that Blackwell Brook is used for fishing, there are trails that start in the proposed easement that continue into Town land. Diane Wimmer commented most of their decisions that have been fee in lieu of open space are based on where the property was located because they did not want random pieces of easement. Dana Heilemann said that she liked the idea of having parking lot/pull off area. Diane Wimmer asked Rick Ives if he would like to keep the owner of the property responsible for the lot or the Town will maintain the land. Rick Ives responded that he would not be opposed to the Town taking over the maintenance of the land.

Diane Wimmer said that proposed easement has wetlands that the developer will be putting in protection in to keep them from being adversely affected. Jana Roberson commented that the proposed easement boundaries are about the same as the wetlands, which is different. She commented that the Commission needs to understand the value of the property before accepting the easement. The proposed easement does abut Town land with a trail system on it, but land east of the brook provides additional access to the easement and provide additional protection of the brook. Rick Ives said that the proposed easement is accessible and is used quite often. Discussion ensued.

Jeannine Noel said that most the proposed subdivision is open fields, the proposed easement and the fifth lot are wooded, which would mean cutting a lot of trees for the house. The Commission agreed that the open space easement would be the best choice

with it protecting the brook, being connected to the Town land, and people are currently using the area for recreation

Diane Wimmer made a motion to recommend to Planning & Zoning that the parcel that has been outline on the plot plan be accepted as an Open Space Easement. The reason being that it contains valuable soils, wetlands, wildlife, accessible and connected to Town land. Carolyn Teed-Ives seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Paul Archer commented that the lot on Rukstela Rd might be available for the Town to purchase in the future.

- c) **Other:** Jeannine Noel received an email from JoAnn Lohbusch co-hosting a nature event at Riverside with Parks and Recreation. Diane Wimmer commented that the Commission would be on board and could plan, but it depends if COVID-19 restrictions are still in place.
- 5) **Old Business:** None
- 6) **Correspondence:** Diane Wimmer was forwarded an email from James Paquin in favor of the Town purchasing the corner lot. Diane Wimmer will keep the letter in case the purchase comes to light. The letter did not impact the meeting tonight.
- 7) **Public Comment:** Jana Roberson asked if the Commission knew that they do not have to accept the open space that is proposed, but can propose any open space in a subdivision review. Diane Wimmer commented that the Commission is aware and Jeannine Noel said that they liked the ability to connect the trails.
- 8) **Adjournment:** Dana Heilemann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm. Carolyn Teed-Ives seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

Sincerely Submitted,
April Lamothe
Recording Secretary

Meeting Schedule for 2021

January 4th

February 1st

March 1st

April 5th

May 3rd

June 7th

No meeting in July unless needed

August 2nd

September 7th (Tuesday)

October 4th

November 1st

December 6th