

Present: Van Webb, Tim Fleury, Mark Reynolds, Terry Mattson, Mat Hurd, Cliff Fields, Ginny Gwynn, Barbara Chalmers

Absent: None

Guests: Town Manager Shannon Martinez, Doug Gamsby, Water-Sewer Commissioner, David Bailey, Water-Sewer Dept, from Energy Committee: Bette Nowack, Keith Chrisman, and Doug Hanson.

Those noted above met at Town Hall, called to order at 7:00. Van noted that the discussion regarding the Archers/Barrett lot town forest and sewage treatment plant would be moved to the beginning of the meeting. The following was discussed:

1. Archers/Barrett Lot Town Forest and Sewer Treatment Plant:

- Discussion of the document packet assembled by Shannon and Holly Leonard regarding minutes, deeds, and warrant articles for purchase of land and construction of sewer. (See Attachment A)
- Shannon stated that the past warrant articles were clear in their intent to buy the land for use of the sewer plant. The town purchased both parcels - no gift of land involved.
- Van commented that as written, the documents do not stipulate exclusive use of the land by only the sewer plant.
- Barbara noted that in 1978, after construction of the sewer plant and before designation as a town forest, the Conservation Commission had a timber management plan prepared with a timber survey (included in Shannon's packet) for this lot. A 1980 warrant article raised funds for timber marking and sale on 3 town parcels, including this lot.
- Dave Bailey reported that W-S Commissioners walked the site and that the land on the top of the hill (presently forest) is useable for facility components in the future.
- Dave Bailey noted that discharge permits were issued in 2007 and 2017, but are now on a 5-year cycle with the next one coming in October 2022. He has a one-year period to meet the requirements set in the discharge permit, so he must be able to act quickly. Removing the Archers/Barrett lot from town forest designation is critical for timely response to future regulatory requirements.
- Dave and Doug Gamsby described the near-future treatment issues:
 - 1) On-site sludge drying, which will require a large building. Presently one dumpster per week is hauled to an out-of-town facility, which could stop taking wet sludge. With on-site drying, one dumpster per month would be hauled off-site.
 - 2) PFOAs (plastic particles) in water which are everywhere - in the air and in surface waters. Eventually, regulation will make use of Lake Sunapee as a drinking water source untenable, requiring use of the deep-water wells now dormant on the Wendell Marsh conservation land. Van noted that the Ausbon-Sargent conservation easement set up on that parcel accommodates town use of those wells.
- Dave Bailey noted that there is about 3-acres of open land at the sewer plant, but more would be needed, with no idea how much in the future, so all useable land in the lot must be available for W-S use. When the deep-water wells are accessed, a pumping and treatment facility will need to be built.
- Dave Bailey stated that the wetland portion of the Archers/Barrett lot cannot be used for W-S facilities and if others want to have a land survey done to establish its boundary, this portion of the lot could remain in town forest. Doug noted that the existing sewer plant discharge zone into the wetland must remain and be identified on any survey.
- Terry asked about the nature of the sewer plant operating agreement between Sunapee and New London. Dave noted that on average, 73% of the flow into the plant comes from NL and that their share of operating costs is similarly proportioned. There is a long-term agreement in place (first negotiated in 1976-77) that gets periodically updated. The plant uses \$5K in electricity per month which will soon substantially increase with jump in energy prices.

- Dave Bailey indicated he wants to work together. The forested land in the lot could still be managed by the ConCom for wildlife and recreation until it is needed by the W-S Department. Van was in agreement with this approach. He noted that land removed from the town forest by a 2023 warrant article would then be under the selectmen's jurisdiction.
- Barbara noted that the Archers/Barrett lot wetland is a highly ranked wildlife corridor and connects conservation land to the north and south. For these reasons, it should remain in the town forest. ConCom members concurred and Van recommended contacting surveyor Clayton Platt, who is already familiar with the lot, for a fee proposal to delineate the wetlands, then survey and field mark their extents. The ConCom has funds that can be allocated for this purpose. This map would then be used in conjunction with a 2023 warrant article to remove the non-wetland portion of the Archers/Barrett lot from town forest.
- Terry noted that then, the Energy Committee can deal directly with the W-S Commission, without ConCom involvement, regarding any solar array installation for the plant. Bette commented that when a building is required for sludge drying, it could integrate a solar array on its roof.

Motion: By Terry to obtain a proposal from Clayton Platt to delineate the Archers/Barrett lot wetland, survey its bounds and set field monuments for consideration at the September Con Com meeting. 2nd by Barbara, Vote unanimous in favor.

- This fall Shannon will draft the 2023 warrant article for removal of the non-wetlands portion of the Archers/Barrett lot from town forest designation and will make clear this is done to correct an error made when the 2002 warrant article passed. **Action by Shannon**
- If the proposed 2023 warrant article passes, then the wetland survey would be made into a deed and registered.
- Terry thanked Shannon for her efforts to facilitate the discussion and agreement.

2. MINUTES

Motion by Terry to approve June minutes, 2nd by Tim. Abstaining: Cliff and Mat. Approved unanimously.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a. Mark reported accounts are still in process of being set up for electronic banking. He did get all statements. ConCom Fund Account stands at \$139K + interest.
- b. Pending from Jan: Shift of funds to one consolidated bank account later in year.
- c. Pending from Apr: Shift MeadowsEnd GPS billing from professional services account to general fund.

Motion by Barbara to accept treasurer's report, 2nd by Cliff, accepted unanimously.

4. MAIL

Wetlands Board: permit app for 93-ft of wall removal by Richard Veilleux, 24 Sunnyside Drive.

5. INVOICES

UVLSRPC for NRI Update \$490 invoice #54. Tim reminded all we have a \$23K not to exceed contract. **Motion** by Mark to pay invoice #54, 2nd by Terry: approved unanimously with funds to be taken from professional services account.

6. OLD BUSINESS

NRI Update: Barbara reported that we will have information from Olivia in about 2 weeks for our review prior to our September meeting with her. Van asked if there is anything the ConCom should be doing now? Barbara noted that Olivia is looking to us to provide photographs to illustrate the NRI report, ie of wetlands, vernal pools, key habitat areas, etc. Cliff noted there is an app that allows cell phone photos to be logged with GPS coordinates.

Barbara reported she has updated the draft cultural and historic resources list for the NRI and has made two associated maps, all send to Olivia. Barbara will attach these drafts to the August minutes. See Attachment B.

Japanese Knotweed Update:

- Ginny reported on the meeting with Doug Cygan, NH Department of Agriculture Invasive Species Coordinator. He reviewed a new technique using ½" galvanized hardware cloth (4'wide rolls) secured tightly to the ground surface after the plants are cut down, rather than thick plastic sheeting and bark mulch to smother plant growth. New technique seems to work well by girdling the plants. For disposal, he and the state recommend laying cut stalks out on the ground to completely dry and turn brown. They are then harmless and can be chopped up and used as mulch.
- Doug Cygan reported DOT has stopped doing any knotweed eradication, its no longer a priority for their available man-power. Doug suggested that regional Con Coms and other interested parties write to the State DOT Commissioner to urge re-establishment of their eradication work.
- Ginny then met with Scott Hazelton, Sunapee Highway Dept, regarding knotweed disposal. Scott is adamant that knotweed cannot be brought to the recycling station and that it must remain on the premises where growing. Scott suggests after cutting and on-site drying, the material is then buried on-site, not an easily accomplished solution. Ginny is frustrated and for now, the demonstration project is on hold. She reminded all that just cutting down knotweed without smothering the plants or installation of hardware cloth, actually encourages more growth.

View Easement at 129 Ryder Corner Rd: Tim reported that he has met and reviewed the extents of the proposed view easement on the ground with the property owner. They are satisfactory. The owner is not interested in sharing cost of survey, marking, and deed recording. He will attend our September meeting to discuss further. Van noted that it is important to get this deed error resolved for future Ausbon Sargent easement inspections over perpetuity.

Tim will confirm estimated cost of survey, ground marking, deed and registration with Clayton Platt. **Action by Tim**

Peer Review Meetings: Mark reported July meeting focused on Air B&B short-term rentals. The town is looking at adopting new or better-defined regulations.

Ledge Pond Trails: Van contacted police again re canoe. Cliff reported it was still there last week. Trails other than Lucien's Way will remain nameless for now. Mark and Mat will plan a fall community hike at the Ledge Pond trails and report next month. **Action by Mark & Mat**

2022 Town Forest Rec Use Data Collection: No update at this time. **Action by Terri**

Planning Board Master Plan Update: Tim will write to the planning board regarding cost sharing of the NRI update. **Action by Tim**

Treehouse on Wendell Marsh land: Cliff to check with Craig Heino to confirm its removal. **Action by Cliff**

Dewey Beach Erosion: No update. Barbara to raise issue with Scott Hazelton. **Action by Barbara**

7. NEW BUSINESS

Tree care at Town Parks: Shannon asked the Con Com to oversee tree care at town parks since there is no town department or committee that does this now. There are town park trees of high and low value, infected with the ash borer which will kill the trees. Tim had volunteered to review these infected trees at Coffin Park. Dead and dying trees present a hazard along the route of the new fitness equipment. Shannon has a proposal for tree removal (costly) and for ash borer injection treatment (much less costly). Van voiced the opinion that treatment was not a long-term solution. Tim noted treatment can work for high-value trees, where tree replacement is necessary and costly. Shannon noted treatment would buy time to come up with a plan and budget for tree maintenance, for the many town parks make for a substantial issue. The Con Com is amenable to taking on this responsibility and future related budget.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Sep 3 at 7 PM.

Attachment A: Info packet

Attachment B: Draft NRI Cultural & Historic Resource Inventory list & maps

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Chalmers, secretary