

Town of Sunapee
Meeting of December 1, 2021

The meeting opened at 7:05 with Tim Fleury appointed chair and Van Webb appointed acting secretary for the meeting. Present in the room were Barbara, Matt, Ginny, Terry, Mark, Van and Tim, Cliff appeared by Zoom.

A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made by Barbara and seconded by Mark, a roll call vote was taken due to Cliff being present by Zoom, Cliff abstained, Van abstained, the rest of the commission voted in the affirmative and the motion carried.

Mark presented the treasurers report noting although the current balance of the conservation commission fund is \$29,354.20 a check has been cut for the change in use tax monies and the \$55,000 for last years warrant article, we should have a new balance for next month. Van asked for a breakdown of all expenditures from the commission fund for 2021 to be included in next months report. It was noted \$310 was used from the commission fund to cover being over budget with expenses for the year. A motion to approve the treasurers report by Barbara was seconded by Matt, Van abstained and all others voted yes, the motion carried.

An invoice for \$300 from MeadowsEnd Timber was presented to the commission, this was for work done monitoring the LCIP easements held by the town which need annual monitoring. Terry asked if it was possible for members to accompany the people doing the monitoring, all agreed it would be a positive thing and most likely possible. The monitoring is done in the fall and we will make sure to ask the question next year and see if we can get people out.

Matt made the motion to approve spending \$300 from the conservation commission fund to pay MeadowsEnd Timber for their monitoring report, second by Mark, a roll call vote was taken and the tally was 7 in favor, none opposed.

A discussion ensued about the view easement at 129 Ryder Corner Road, owner Josh Ginsberg. Tim was able to join Clayton Platt surveyor and Josh in late November for a walk at the site. Information from Josh indicated that there were other lots that may have the same language as his and Clayton was authorized to do the research about which lots actually had the view easement language associated with them. Clayton found that there were 3 lots with the easement, two owned by Josh and one further to the west. Tim and Clayton thought that the powerline might be an easily identified boundary for the view easement. Tim's thought was to do all 3 parcels at once, Van opinion was to work with each landowner when the issue was raised. Van questioned the associated value of a permanent view easement and how that would affect the value of the parcel it was added to. Terry asked who should pay for the survey and legal work that would be needed for the project, it was decided that we would at first ask Josh to pay for expenses and then negotiate from there. ASLPT will have to approve of any activity that we take there. Cliff indicated that there are renters in the home to the west, the address on the property card is in Germany. Tim was asked to make sure Clayton has a report ready for us for next month so we can continue discussions.

Ledge Pond activities.

Van noted that there has been no follow up contact with Rhonda Tracey and that the issue will not be addressed until we are contacted again. With Lucien Osborne scheduled to appear next on the agenda, Terry asked how to begin forming a policy to accept gifts of from those proposing to erect benches or monuments on Town property or how we should decide on who gets to name trails that are being constructed. A precedent has been set, Barbara noted that the Herbert Welsch trail was named on the Tyler-Bartlett lot and the Sawyer Trail has been named on the Dewey Woods lot. Ginny thought it would be important to be consistent across all properties, all agreed that until we have a policy statement all requests should be reviewed by the commission and permission should be granted on a case-by-case basis. Tim agreed to ask ASLPT for their policy information and to have that available for the next meeting.

Lucien Osborne, Eagle Scout project. Lucien stated that the trail is complete and that mulch has been added to low spots and rough ground. Mark who has been involved in the project has walked the loop and thinks that the end result is first rate. Lucien would like to mark the trail with arrows, Van volunteered to search for markers and make them available to Lucien when they arrive. Lucien had a plaque for our review that will be mounted on the entrance to the trail, it was reviewed and approved. Barbara asked if we could start pulling flagging from the woods, and all agreed that the flagging from the timber sale and the trail flagging should be removed after the trail markers are installed. Lucien was thanked for an excellent effort and we look forward to the trail signs being installed. Mark proposed and the group agreed that next falls walk in the woods should be at Ledge Pond and that we hope that MeadowsEnd timber will have their portion of the trail complete for that event. We will make sure to coordinate with the rec committee to get the walk on their calendar.

Master plan update. We were lucky enough to have Richard Osborne present for a discussion of the commission's role in the master plan process. He indicated that the plan is still a way from being published and there is still time for input. Tim noted that we have a slot at the January meeting of the planning board if we want to add comments. Mark asked what the relationship is between the planning board and the commission, Terry wondered if we had the power to not sign off on approvals if we objected. All felt that there are enforcement issues of existing regulations and many members cited cases where activity in town was done in spite of not being in compliance. Enforcement is a Selectboard issue and there seems to be a lack of effort there. The maps from the previous NRI (natural resources inventory) were located and reviewed, a discussion was had regarding having another one done by the UVRPC, the last one was in 2008. Tim agreed to lead and coordinate our efforts with the master plan, Terry agreed to be our representative at the next planning board meeting.

The mail: Town of Sunapee, approval to install police boat dock
Coffin Real Estate Trust, approval to replace boathouse.

Meeting adjourned 9:10

Respectfully submitted, Van Webb acting secretary