

Present: Van Webb, Tim Fleury, Matt Hurd, Barbara Chalmers

Absent: Cliff Fields, Ginny Gwynn

Guests: Town Manager Shannon Martinez, for Water & Sewer Commission: Wayne Stoddard, Dave Bailey, and Charlie Hirshberg, for Energy Committee Bette Nowack and Keith Chrisman, Logan Young of GZA for Eversource, land surveyor Clayton Platt.

Van called the meeting at Town Hall to order at 7:00.

1. VISITORS

- Warrant Article Wording Discussion: Shannon, Wayne, Dave, Charlie, Bette, and Keith were present to discuss wording of town warrant article to remove part of the Barrett-Archers Lot from town forest designation for future use by the town waste water treatment plant. Barbara Chalmers provided all with a draft for discussion which reserves the wetland, about half of the 42-acre lot, in town forest designation. Charlie noted that when the plant has to expand for volume, it will be to the west and that the present outfall is within the wetland. It is possible in future that the outfall may need to be lengthened, so that ability needs to be reserved. He recommends that the Water & Sewer Commissioners stake the edge of land needed for plant use. Then Clayton Platt can establish the boundary of the portion of the lot to be removed from town forest designation by GPS mapping and determine actual acreage. This acreage can then be added by amendment during the deliberative session. All thought this was a good plan. Charlie asked if subdivision of the lot was required. Van noted that town forest is a designation and can apply to part of a parcel. Shannon reported that the selectmen are supportive of this article. Dave Bailey stated that W&S wants an article that all can support. Shannon read the proposed wording from town counsel and will make minor revisions with counsel to reflect this evening's discussion. She will endeavor to get this revised wording to W&S in time for their Thursday meeting for a vote. Any comments on wording to be sent directly to Shannon.
- Eversource Work in Wetland: Logan Young of GZA reviewed Eversource's plans for transmission pole replacement on lines from Trow Hill Road heading south to an area east of Sunny Lane. Some of this work is in wetlands and a portion is in the town Webb-Flint Lot. He explained the measures to be taken to minimize wetland disturbance as agreed with DES. Van noted that Eversource has done a good job of wetland protection in the past and thanked Logan for attending and providing information. Work will be done during the winter to minimize impact.

2. MINUTES

Motion by Tim to approve Dec minutes, 2nd by Matt. Vote unanimous in favor.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Con Com Treasurer Mark Reynolds resigned from the commission in December, so there is no treasurer's report. Shannon provided current balance information.

Motion by Tim to accept the resignation of Mark 2nd by Matt. We thank Mark for his service to the commission. Vote unanimous in favor.

Appointment of a new treasurer was tabled.

4. INVOICES

- UVLSRPC invoice for October work on NRI of \$1,470: **Motion** by Barbara to pay this invoice from professional services, 2nd by Matt. Vote unanimous in favor.
- Pending; NH Assoc of Conservation Commissions membership invoice of \$425 for 2023 to be paid in April 2023.

- Pending: Pennyroyal revised invoice for view easement: Tim reported that invoice was delivered to town hall on Dec 29. Shannon noted that since it is 2022 work, it will be paid from 2022 account funds.

5. MAIL

- John Martin, 15 Scotts Cove: Dec application for dock replacement and bank restoration.
- Meadowbrook Homeowners Association: Permit by notification, dredge application at existing boathouse at Red Water Creek/Fishers Bay.
- Bruni, 122 Garnet Hill Rd: Application for lake shore bank restoration
- Birch Lane on Birch Point, DES Dredge & Fill application for an existing wall replacement.
- TTC Properties, 22 Woodland Road: Revised landscape plan requested by DES.
- Pending: ConCom response to DOT Sep letter re mitigation priorities related to future Springfield Road culvert work at Otter Pond outlet. Tim will draft a response. **Action by Tim**

6. OLD BUSINESS

- View Easement at Ryder Corner Road: Tim reported that the written legal description of the view easement is still pending.
- Peer Review Meeting: Shannon will forward invite to these meetings. Barbara will attend for now, until open seats on the conservation commission are filled and duties assigned.
- Planning Board NRI Cost Share: Tim reported that Michael Marquis spoke with Shannon about this and she is looking into available Planning Board funds. Barbara will put together a summary of UVLSRPC NRI billings. **Action by Barbara and Shannon**
- Update on Treehouse & QR Code for Rec Use Data from Cliff: No update. **Action by Cliff**
- Hiking Trail Fallen Tree Removal: Van noted and Shannon concurred that any chainsaw work must be done by insured parties. Con com to hire out this work. **Action by ConCom**
- 2023 Warrant Article - Funding Conservation Expendable Trust Fund: With an unexpected windfall of about \$96K from Current Use change tax, the trust fund will be about \$135K. Van supports reducing our usual \$55K request to \$1,500 for 2023 only, since income from this tax in future may go back to its former low levels. Barbara wondered whether the fund target total of \$250K should be increased because of the substantial rise in land costs which will impact conservation easement costs in the future? Van said that should be considered. Van requested that in future Shannon provides Current Use change tax information quarterly to the Con Com treasurer. Shannon will and noted that the Con Com needs to be present at budget working sessions.
Motion by Tim to rescind last month's vote on conservation trust fund warrant article request amount and to set it at \$1,500. 2nd by Matt. Vote unanimous in favor.
- Dewey Woods / Garnet Hill Park: Van reported that he and Barbara had walked the west meadow and noted that the field needs tree and brush trimming and mowing or will soon be grown in. The small butter tub building on the site (planned in 1974 as part of a proposed historical park) is a hazard in poor condition. Barbara wrote to its owner, Eileen Stiles, regarding its removal. Shannon reported that Eileen left word that the family will remove and restore the building. Van noted that putting a recreation building on Dewey Woods near the ball field is not consistent with deed restrictions. Shannon acknowledged that the Rec Committee is now looking at further development at Veterans' Field. The Carey family letter regarding hazards posed by trees in the Bartlett-Tyler Lot (Garnet Hill

Park) falling onto their house and land was discussed. Barbara will hike up to the area and take photos. A review of this area for possible tree removal will be made part of the Dewey Woods property walk with Meadowsend Forestry. Van will contact them for available dates. **Action by Van**

Shannon will contact the Careys to advise them that their concerns are being looked into.

Action by Shannon

- NRI: Barbara has downloaded the NRI report, maps, and appendix and has loaded all to the Conservation Commission's webpage. She will get an estimate for printing 3 copies of the complete report for next month's meeting. **Action by Barbara**

8. NEW BUSINESS

- New Members: Barbara will contact Allyson at town hall to issue a notice looking for 1 member and 2 alternate members for the Conservation Commission. **Action by Barbara**
- Urban Forest Questionnaire: Tim completed the questionnaire as requested by Shannon. Discussion about a joint partnership of town departments to meet in 2023 for establishing an action plan to fund, manage, monitor, and remove dead, dying, and hazardous trees on town property. Many trees are succumbing to the Ash Borer. Shannon noted that the highway department has found tree removal costly and is only able to partly fund their needs. Tim noted that some high-profile locations like the harbor park may require appropriate replanting after removals and other areas will need invasive plant management. Tim reported that other towns have appointed a Tree Warden to lead this effort.
- Proposed Septic System Regulation: Barbara reported on a meeting at LSPA last month regarding a proposed septic system inspection and tank pumping ordinance for systems in Sunapee within the Aquifer Overlay District and Shoreline Overlay District as defined by town zoning and all commercial food prep facilities anywhere in town. Because this involves drinking water quality, the ordinance requires only adoption by the selectmen. They reviewed the proposal in December and will hold several public meetings before they vote to adopt. Barbara noted this would be an important step toward meeting one of the con com's 2022 NRI Conservation Goals re water quality protection.
Motion by Barbara for the Conservation Commission to go on record in support of this proposed ordinance, 2nd by Tim. Vote unanimous in favor.

Reminder: conservationcommission@town.sunapee.nh.us Emails to this address are being monitored by Barbara and all emails should be copied to, if not sent out through this address. Access is through outlook.com

Meeting adjourned 8:50 PM. Next Meeting: February 1 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chalmers, secretary