

Conway Conservation Commission
Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Location: Town Hall All-Purpose Room

Facilitator: Grace Larson

Members Present: Bob Armstrong, Bob Nowak, Bruton Strange

Administrative Assistant: Lara De Lucca

Other Attendees:

Janet Chayes

Kevin Downie

Jennifer Drinker

Dawn Heffernan (calling in)

Ruth Parnell (calling in)

Michele Turre (calling in)

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m. by Grace Larson

1. Review and approve minutes of previous meeting, October 12, 2021

Motion to approve minutes as submitted by Grace, seconded by Bruton, approved 4-0-0.

2. Financial Matters

- Check received: \$72.50 – 266 Elm St

Motion to accept checks by Grace, seconded by Bruton, approved 4-0-0.

3. BOH/Building Permits/Site Reviews

- 266 Elm Street house addition and septic system placement

Waiting on other things

4. Forest Cutting Plans

- Response to FCP – Hanby, lot 407-003

Concern about primary habitats, Fisheries and Wildlife is putting limitations on where they can do the cutting. It's in their hands.

5. Mail and Miscellaneous Matters

- **Nexamp update of EO plan**

Did site visit on enforcement order. Looks like everyone is in favor of proceeding with the plan.

- **Dry Hydrant – Main Poland Rd – update**

Update from Roger Clapp – they were ready to start last weekend

- **Eversource line 312 – update**

Ready with erosion controls, agreed that Shirkshire Rd part has to get clearance from Natural Heritage before they start. Shelburne Falls Rd part okay to start after extra erosion control installed as discussed.

- **Roaring Glen Farm – modification of special permit**

Notice from Planning Board, RGF applied for modification and is going through that process. Doesn't impact ConCom.

- **Open Space Forum**

Three ConCom members were at the forum.

- **Habitat NOI expected**

Hasn't come through yet. Bruton reviewed materials and they should stick with the NOI. Lots of riverfront and buffer zone involved.

- **Upcoming Hike at Conway Town Forest**

Saturday Nov 6, meet at the Grammar School, 10:00 – noon. Sponsored by Open Space Committee.

- **Natural Roots Farm**

David Fisher of Natural Roots contacted Bruton about putting in deer fencing. Wants input from ConCom, may come to future meeting.

6. Public Hearings/Meetings

- **7:10 RDA – 266 Elm St – House addition and septic system placement**

Hearing Opened: 7:08

Did visit. Did not see any issue with resources. Stream is 50 feet away horizontally and pre-disturbed. It will be reviewed by DEP, expect it to be signed off.

Grace moves to approve with Negative 5, with exemption reason 10.03.36. Bruton seconds. Passes. 4-0-0.

Hearing Closed: 7:18

- **7:20 Discussion – Jumping worms**

Dawn Heffernan expressed interest/concern to ConCom and Forest and Trails Committee, wanting to know what can be done to create awareness, generate some interest in invasive jumping worms and how they are impacting land in Conway. Not a ConCom issue. ConCom's authority is only over wetland issues caused by human activities.

The Open Space Committee is working on invasive plants. Have done a lot of public education, could possibly incorporate the worms. They are a difficult problem, nothing can be done except by individuals. People are motivated when it is their own home, their neighborhood.

Perfect connection to group doing forest studies and working in Conway - the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership. They could add the worms to the upcoming Nov. 6 walk. There are a lot of issues around local health of the ecosystem, can incorporate this. Can be added to Open Space gathering in the spring as well.

- **7:30 Discussion of Nexamp's EO reconstruction plans**

Did site visit and looked at plans, everyone was happy. Tighe and Bond are happy about numbers, Mark happy with it. If they start next week, will know in the spring melt if it worked and resolved the problem. Bruton will respond that ConCom accepts proposed plan, and will continue to monitor the site.

Next regular meeting: November 9, then will decide about possibly going down to one meeting per month during the winter.

Motion to adjourn by Grace, seconded by Bruton, approved 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:00.