

CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, May 8, 2019 6:30 P.M. WHITAKER
HOME SITE MEETING HOUSE Committee Minutes
Amended June 6, 2019

Present: Chair Rob Adair, Larry Huemmler, Peter Minnich, Dan Lucy, Selectmen Representative David Weathers
Guests: Don Johnson, Russ Lanoie, Charles MaComber, Chair Rob Adair called meeting to order at 6:33pm

1. Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2019 Larry Huemmler motioned to approve Selectmen David Weathers 2nd Motion passed (4-0), Rob abstained

2. Public Comment

3. Reports & Other Business: a. Forest Land Improvement – Don Johnson Don put a work agreement together now that budget is approved – needs to talk to Tom Holmes. Selectmen David Weather reported that 93% in budget is left to spend. Don didn't need to go over anything, and was just interested in attending the meeting. Rob reviewed routing. Grounds are wet; a bridge may be required; there is a spot that is fairly wet; work will need to be done on both sides of crossing. It is undecided if Don will need to be responsible for work on either side. This can be done with a boardwalk and may not need a permit.

May 10 Wendy Scribner will be at Whitaker House at 1pm for a presentation. Don will be present. Don attended workshop on Milan community forest; everything is successional in that area. He learned difference between community and town forest. Albany is considered community forest with a conservation easement on it.

Don hasn't done any work yet; a walk is planned and he would like to see how the Advanced Pine did in Whitaker Woods.

Rob spoke about notification impending comment on the Avesta Housing accommodation. Russ Lanoie and Charlie MaComber presented plans for lots located in Conway. Russ presented the copy of the wetlands and showed three existing houses. This showed the original intent - details showed to subdivide with no intention of developing. Avesta were planning to put in 90 units. Selectmen David Weathers said that units cannot support installing without a new waterline. David said that Fire Chief Steve Solomon reported that it will support 4 house, not multi-units. David reported they can put in a big storage tank, which will be a large cost. Avesta will be submitting this plan to approve the four lots, 2460 ft, and forgo the three existing ones. David was informed that they wanted to do this for voting.

Approval for a 30 unit building will have to go in front of the Board of Selectmen. If they can't get the subdivision when out voted then they are restricted to what they can do. There will be impact on the access road by the brook. Russ is concerned about traffic. The Conway Conservation Commission can provide support in regard to the impact of the wetlands and will need to know what Avesta plans on installing – is there long term maintenance?

Charlie believes that there will be an impact when they begin building in specific area. David reported that the State needs something tangible to address the topic; mitigation might be required but Conway Conservation Commission does not have authority to grant this.

~~Charlie also presented plans from 1988~~, which was for 60 lots with septic systems. David said that according to the plan they are not planning on doing any mitigation. Charlie informed that committee that there were no waivers with these plans.

David suggested to Russ and Charlie that they speak to Town Manager Tom Holmes for more information as well as Fire Chief Steve Solomon. Russ and Charlie were informed that the Conway Conservation Committee cannot do much the way this plan is propose. *Worst case scenario is they would have to do mitigation; they would have to build them up; there would have to be a pump station for sewage; this would include treatment areas*

b. NH Electric Co-op – cutting/treatment of powerlines Treatment of powerlines in Whitaker woods; vote for recommendation: going from substation down by Peking restaurant up through Pudding Pond, through Cranmore, Whitaker Woods out to Bartlett. They are planning to mist blow/backpack spray. There is concern about drift based on certain weather conditions. Rob reviewed chemicals they were using - krenite, which is a carcinogen. These chemical may leach into ground water at some point and does not feel that he can support this. Dan agreed. The Conway Conservation Commission cannot support in having this done.

NHEC would spray every five years; mechanical would be more often. David would like to see mechanical based on impact on wildlife. Rob agreed. Concern is for them to keep lines clear – if cut to ground and done every 10 years, this might be a better option and benefit to the wildlife.

Larry Huemmler made a motion that the Conway Conservation Commission does not approve spraying Pudding Pond and Whitaker Woods, but to recommend mechanical brush control.

Selectmen Representative David Weathers 2nd for discussion.

Dan discussed the option of spraying vs mechanical, and not voting on spraying vs mechanical that it is the use of chemicals.

Clarified motion: To approve herbicide spraying on Conway Conservation lands within the town of Conway Larry made motion, David 2. None in favor of approving; Unanimously opposed (0-5)

Mechanical control is supported by the Conway Conservation Commission

c. Whitaker Woods – discuss dog recommendations for Selectmen Selectman Representative David Weathers would like to see what the Conway Conservation Commission would like to have as wording and this will determine size and price of sign. The Board of Selectmen will put up the signs. It is assumed that the cost of the signs might come out of operation budget for the CCC. The Board of Selectmen agreed on the idea of new signs, funding was not discussed. It was also discussed that this teletalk topic received the most comments.

The possibility of signs was discussed by the Conway Conservation Commission, including waste “carry in, carry out” and voice control. The idea is to have better signage than what is in place now for dog owners/walkers to be aware of their responsibility while on Conway Conservation lands. David will ask Tom about cost to determine how many signs to be made and placed, this will need to be put into next year’s budget. It was mentioned that the price can come from TSI work if this hasn’t been done.

Chair Rob Adair was under the impression that they were to vote on leash or no leash. NH State law – there is no leash law and need to be under voice control. Rob asked committee if the CCC needs a sign? Dan commented that a sign will be something to lean on when something comes up. The signs can include bullet points for reminders.

Action: Peter will come up with the verbiage for this sign; sign to be short enough for people to read and understand.

d. Selectmen’s Report – David Weathers

Covered in above report

e. Member Roundtable

Letter from Underwood Engineers, Main Street project Rob asks if anyone has comments or concerns? Selectmen Representative David Weathers reported that a letter is submitted to make these projects separate and to make sure the Main Street project is done in a timely manner. Historical Assessments will be done one at a time. From the railroad track crossing to Irving station to Saco River bridge are included in historical assessments. Rob is not aware of any wetlands impacts in this particular area.

Rob received a call from REI, regarding REI Experiences – outdoor activity. Jordan Cargill is leading REI Experiences in the North Conway Area and asked to use Town property for the outdoor activities (running, biking, possibly guiding). Jordan was informed that any MOU will need to be signed by Town. The CCC discussed the use of lands for commercial use and the possibility of overuse; guidelines for size of groups; and protection for future of property of the Conway Conservation Commission.

A decision was not made by the CCC.

Selectman Representative David will touch base with Town Manager Tom Holmes to see what is needed.

5. Chair Rob Adair called meeting to adjourn 7:47pm

Selectmen Representative David motioned, Peter Minnich 2nd

If unable to attend, please contact Rob Adair 496-5853 or Jackie White at 447-3811, Ext. 223