

## MINUTES

### Sanbornton Conservation Commission

**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:00 PM

**Meeting Place:** Town Offices, 573 Sanborn Road, Sanbornton, N.H.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brad Crosby at 7:00 PM

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Karen Bordeau, Dick Ayers (arrived after Reed property discussion), Doug Sarette, Mary Ahlgren

#### Minutes

Chair Crosby made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 1/11. Karen Bordeau seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Old Business

- a. **Reed property discussion** – Kyle and Jacqueline Reed were in attendance to discuss an offer for their property on Hunkins Pond Rd for sale to the Conservation Commission. Chair Brad Crosby stated that the Commission discussed this at the last meeting and felt that roughly \$1,000 an acre was fair and is offering \$15,000 for the lot. Kyle Reed stated that the appraisal he received was for \$15,000 if there is no access, and \$33,000 if there is access. Chair Crosby stated that the Commission did find that there is a deeded right-of-way so there is access. Kyle Reed stated that he has received some offers from private parties but would rather see the land used for conservation. Chair Crosby explained that another option would be to get a “yellow book” easement appraisal and could use a tax write-off for the difference if the yellow book appraisal is higher. Kyle Reed stated that he is comfortable asking \$24,000 for the lot and that the Commission can discuss this and get back to him. Chair Crosby stated that once a price is agreed upon, it would have to go to the Board of Selectmen and a public hearing needs to be held as well.

The Commission discussed a new offer for the Reed property. Doug Sarette noted that the area of land that there is access to is towards wetlands but the lot still may be buildable. Chair Crosby stated that a topographical map would need to be used to see if it is actually buildable. Doug Sarette made a motion to offer \$18,500 for the property located at Tax Map/Lot 26/006. Karen Bordeau seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Crosby will deliver the offer to the Reeds via phone.

#### New Business

- a. **Conservation Commission funds** – Chair Crosby explained that donations from Walter Ouellette were designated in writing for Eastman Hill trail maintenance, though Commission members were told in person by Walter Ouellette that the money could also be used for other Conservation endeavors. Chair Crosby also stated that he has discovered that the Commission’s leftover budget at the end of the fiscal year is supposed to go to the Conservation Fund and has instead been going back into the General Fund for the Town. Because of this there may not be enough funds to cover legal fees and title research needed when purchasing conservation property, as well the Commission’s purchase of Squam Lakes Science Center passes for the library. Mary Ahlgren stated that there needs to be a procedure in place to make sure that the funds are returned to the right line in the budget in the future. Chair Crosby will work with the Town Administrator to get this sorted out.

- b. Discussion of FY18 goals** – Dick Ayers suggested making a goal of getting support and donations for the Science Center pass if there isn't enough money in that line by May. He also asked if there should be signs on conservation land in the Town. Chair Crosby stated that this is a good idea but funding for this would also come from the Conservation Fund. Mary Ahlgren suggested looking into the State Prison for making the signs. Karen Bordeau stated that she would like to be kept up to date with Planning Board happenings in the next fiscal year. Chair Crosby feels that acquiring more conservation land should be the first priority, especially around the Hunkins Pond area. Karen Bordeau would like to work on creating a map of wildlife crossings in Sanbornton for use in planning; currently many builders place the required 5% conservation setaside on wetlands but this could be better used if there are heavily traveled wildlife corridors. This map would need to be for defined crossings, not just sightings of animals.

Dick Ayers explained that he would like to work with Sanbornton Central School to make nature trails of easements in that area, and Chair Crosby stated that he would like to revisit the Trout in the Classroom program but that takes a lot of planning. Dick Ayers asked if an Earth Day program could be reinstated, as the Commission used to sponsor an event that included roadside cleanup around Sanbornton. Mary Ahlgren responded that the official event ended because of the fear of needles being picked up, but some residents did their own roadside cleanup last year.

A goal for next month's meeting is to come up with prizes for the photo contest at the library; there are three age groups and Doug Sarette and Dick Ayers will meet at the library before April 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss judging criteria as well.

- b. Town Forester contract** – Dick Ayers provided a draft copy of the revised Town Forester contract for the Commission's review. Mary Ahlgren made a motion to accept the drafted Town Forester Services Contract. Doug Sarette seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Dick Ayers will bring this draft to the Town Administrator so that she can send to Jon Martin, as the Conservation Commission cannot hire an employee.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 8th at 7:00.**

Respectfully submitted,

Audry Barriault