

Webster Conservation Commission February 10, 2021

Present: Dan Moran, Chair. Chris Schadler, MJ McGowan, Linda Clark, Sally Embley, Susan Roman, Betsy Janeway, Michele Tremblay, Dana Hadley as Administrator

Absent: Isabel Brintnall

Public: Dan White

Chair Dan opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Roll call

Agenda

Minutes of Jan 13, 2021 approved

Chris was asked to provide an update on the Solar Array. Chris relayed that Olivewood still has not provided the town better mapping on wetlands and delineation.

Frost Lane property owned by Turcottes. Russ Tatro determined the lot was grandfathered.

Susan R. said we reviewed the application for a permit. Once construction begins the SB can refer issues to DES to enforce the Shoreland Water Protection Act. They would delegate it to an authorized agent. Con Comm does not have the authority to go onto the property but a code enforcement officer can. MJ asked if Turcottes came before the WCC last year. Sue Roman thought their application had been reviewed.

Betsy feels WCC needs to keep an eye on building projects to make sure “natural woodlands” are kept in a natural state, for example.

Update on Wetlands Ordinance: Attorney Manzelli has yet to complete the work. Sue Roman said Amy is still available to finish the review and she and Sue Rauth hope to address Rick Van de Poll’s comments in the near future.. Sue Rauth needs to authorize more money for Amy. The difficult issue at stake is how to handle timbering. Dan said an attorney for the timbering groups objected to a portion of our ordinance which has actually been removed (Conditional Permit). New London handles timbering issues with a Special Exception through the ZBA. Michele requested that we receive copies of all Intents to Cut and Sand and Gravel to look over.

Dan wanted to know if Russ could send us Intents to Cut when they come in. Russ agreed.

MJ remembers the WCC always getting them.

Sue Roman: when we get this we have to go the same route – we have to go to the enforcement body which is the SB.

Regarding the graveling on Dustin Road: Emmett needs to file for a permit to gravel; the River Advisory Board will review the permit.

Michele – does he have authority as a contractor – question his level of authority.

Sue Roman – the town rather than Emmett file any applications that need to be filed.

Michele – when it turns into a political issue about what he wants and what the law says, - concern that he may be exceeding his authority

Dan Moran – The two houses across the street may have been completed according to plan.

S. Roman – The logging that was done was the problem which is why we need a Code Enforcement Officer.

Michelle – do we receive Wetlands, Shoreland Quality, Alteration of Terrain permits or gravel permits? We used to but don't now. We should see them. We should ask the town clerk or Russ for these.

New Business

Dan sent a WCC Report to Russ for the Town Report.

Sally, Linda and Betsy and Isabel (check on the last two) – for reappointment.

Sue R. and Dan are still representatives to the Warner River Advisory Committee. There could be as many as 4 people from town.

Protection for the Blackwater River – Dan asked how to begin the process: Michelle suggested ways to initiate protection – how far do we want to go? Protect tributaries? Define the many questions we could address. Michelle has been involved in other river protection (Isinglass). She said surely a WCC could start the process. Betsy said many years ago there was a meeting with Salisbury but nothing happened. Dan asked if the protection could be limited to just the river in the town? (Yes) But stronger designation if all the communities involved are supportive. Michele thinks protecting the Blackwater would be a strong designation too b/c the Contoocook is protected and both feed into the Merrimack.

Dan: Bruce Johnson asked Dan to get the WCC to put some conserved lands in a protection program. Linda, Sally, Betsy and Chris had looked at some of these properties a few years ago.

Michele – Has been working on water quality monitoring. They have been asking for donations to buy equipment. Would the WCC be willing to donate some money toward purchasing equipment. Sue Roman said it could come out of our budget but not our Conservation Fund. Chris will see if we can access money from our budget approved in 2020.

Voting for Elections on March 9th.

Dan said meetings could be livestreamed on Youtube.

Dan is part of the Capital Region COVID Response team.

Dan White thanks Chris for visiting. He was interested in following up on the solar array project. He has concerns with possible wetland violations. He also had told Chris that the proposed solar array may extend beyond the large clear cut. The entire 93 acres has been stumped and buried. This could jeopardize the solar array stability.

Sue Roman – wondered whether Horizon Holdings and Hopkinton Forestry used best mgmt. practices. Sue Roman suggested that the solar array subcommittee should be notified about this and pursue on behalf of the town in negotiations with Olivewood.

PILOT program – original PILOT – town may not be protected if the solar equipment fails. Doug Patch should pursue this.

Next meeting March 10, 2021.

Adjourned at 8:44.

Submitted by Chris Schadler