

Conway Conservation Commission

WEDNESDAY, January 13th, 2020 6:35P.M. GoToMeeting

Present: Chair Rob Adair, Vice Chair Nat Lucy, Treasurer Linda Kearney, Peter Minnich, David Weathers, Tim Nolan, Larry Huemmler, Pat Ferland

Absent: Sarah Frechete, Dan Lucy, Abby King

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Adair at 6:33pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the **November 11th** commission meeting were approved unanimously after corrections were made to the spelling of member names, as well as additional errors in attendance reporting.

David Weathers motioned to accept the minutes as amended, with Peter Minnich seconding. Larry Huemmler abstained.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

3. Reports and Other Business

Walker Pond

The commission discussed the Walker Pond trail, which suffers from a general lack of signage. What signage remains is faded, and the trail does not have anything to catch the eye. The discussion was eventually tabled after a brief discussion about the price of the signs, as they were not accounted for in the budget for the year. It was tabled as the citizen who had brought it to the attention of the commission was absent.

Hubbard-Davis Abenaki Lands Followup

There was brief followup on the Hubbard-Davis cleanup effort, in which the process was described to the commission. The building that had previously been marked for demolition had been removed, as well as general cleanup, including removal of dead branches.

Conway Bypass Surplus Land Sales

The Town of Conway had decided to sell some of the land that had been purchased for the eponymous Route 16 bypass. This created an issue for the commission, as previously the New Hampshire Department of Transportation had given approval for the recreation trail to be on some of this land. The main concern were the three or four parcels of land between Pudding Pond and Redstone Acres, which totaled roughly 460 acres. While these parcels are not on the current list to sell, it is very likely that they will be at some point. The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust had reached out to the commission, with the agreement that both parties are interested in preserving the lands due to the amount of wetland and rec trails.

However, the cost of the lands - and that of continued maintenance - was a concern. With the land at market value, the price would be in the ballpark of \$700,000. The final decision rests with the DOT, but the commission noted that this will be an important area for the coming meeting.

Tim Nolan expressed interest in doing a timber harvest on some of the lands mentioned, and a brief discussion was had as to the agreement that the commission made in managing the land, with the eventual conclusion being reached that a timber harvest would be within the bounds of the agreement.

Selectmen's Report: David Weathers

David Weathers updated the commission on a variety of topics.

The first the parking situation at Davis Park, First Bridge, and Meeting House Road. In regards to First Bridge, more parking was considered - however, since it is near the floodplain, it will be on the east side of the river. In addition, parking will now be charged for non-residents, with either a parking attendant present or a parking disbursement machine. The money from parking will ideally cover the cost of the attendant, with the town hopeful that it will generate revenue. In addition, parking on the side of River Road will be eliminated.

The commission discussed expanding parking at Davis Park, but it would be costly and likely tax the river more than it already is.

Some members of the commission expressed concern at the enforcement of the parking restrictions on River Road, as previously the same sort of thing at Diana's Bath had been unsuccessful.

He then updated the commission on a noise ordinance in the works, which would be 10pm-6am. Waivers for both farmers and foresters are being considered.

Member Roundtable

The member roundtable came down largely to a brief followup on the mysterious Marshall Property trailblazer (nothing new was reported), and finished with Chair Rob Adair showing the commission some of the new signs that he made for the property. Treasurer Linda Kearney motioned to adjourn at 7:30, with David Weathers seconding. The motion passed, and the commission adjourned.