

## Conservation Commission Minutes

November 14, 2018

Page 1 of 2

Frank Lombardi called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

**Members Present:** Frank Lombardi- Chairman, Don LaPlante- Vice Chair, Marsha Lombardi, Edie Worcester and Tina Wright-Secretary  
Valerie Yelton via phone

**Members Absent:** Ken Jordan

**Public Present:** none

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

#### **Letter from United States Department of Interior**

Frank contacted Steve Agius who is the manager of the Wildlife Refuge and received a letter from Mr. Agius. Frank read the letter to the Commission, see attached letter.

Marsha said we need to send this letter to the WEDC. She feels they should see this and discuss this letter. Frank spoke with Mr. Agius on the land and Mr. Agius said the cutting that was done on this land caused a lot of blow downs and made a mess of their trails. Frank suggests still making it a town forest he thinks there is good educational purposes for this land. Don said he's had some experience with this and there are already two educational properties in the New Hampshire/Vermont area, doesn't feel it needs to be sold to do educational things with it. Don feels we should still move forward to make the property as a town forest. One reason is ultimately a revenue stream that would benefit the property and town. Don said he feels the Selectmen are reluctant they are insistent that they need the revenue on the sale of the property. A letter was sent to the airport commission and no one has heard from them yet. Frank said we need to see if the people of the town want it to be a town forest. If not then we go to the next step. Don said there is a couple of ways to approach this, go to the Selectmen one more time to have it put on as a warrant, if we can't get them to move then we do a petition article. We want the Selectboard, Planning Board and the WEDC to give their recommendation. Frank asked Tina to find out details on what needs to be done to get it on as a warrant article. Frank would like to get it out there to the people, newspaper, press release etc. Get information on this property for the people of the town. Edie said if you get on the town maps and look, her feeling is that end of town is mostly conserved properties. Bernie Bean, the flats, Rexford and Pondicherry. It's all in that area of town. Don said Barbara Richter is a good person to reach out to. Also maybe touch base with the Town of Randolph, they have over 6,000 acres in Conservation. Frank said we'll get a packet together.

#### **Casella Letter**

Frank mentioned that at the Planning Board meeting the night before that a discussion was had on some Geo Technical Boring going on near Forest Lake State Park. The word going around is

Casella Waste Systems in Bethlehem New Hampshire is looking for land nearby to expand the landfill. The land is in Dalton New Hampshire also an area that a proposal for a drag strip and race track was brought forward a few years ago.

Frank said the concern is the Town of Dalton has no zoning. They don't have to by law contact neighboring towns about this plan. The Whitefield Planning Board has decided to write them a letter to their (Dalton) Selectboard and Planning board and would like to help and be involved. Frank and Don both agreed they would draft up a letter as well from the Conservation Commission telling the Town of Dalton that we would like to be involved in the potential impacts for what is being proposed here.

#### **Richard Harris/Hall Road**

Frank said the Planning Board has been informed that Richard Harris has been using fill from the water project going on, on Rte 3 and Mtn View Road to fill in some potentially wet areas on the Hall Road. This area is part of Mr. Harris' phase 2 where he has been approved for a few trailers. Don recommended that the Selectmen need to contact DES he said it appears that wetlands are involved and DES should be notified. Frank also agreed that the town should let the state know and see if a dredge and fill permit has been filed.

#### **Correspondence:**

The Town of Whitefield received notification from DES that Bob Stiles did get approval for the deck on the Old Mill Studio building.

#### **ByLaws**

Frank asked if anyone had looked at the Town of Milfords Bylaws? Everyone said they will for next meeting.

#### **Next Meeting**

Changing next meeting to Thursday December 13, 2018. Instead of Wednesday the 12th at 6 PM at the Whitefield Town Office.

**A motion was made by Don LaPlante to approve the minutes as is from the October 10, 2018 meeting, seconded by Edie Worcester, no further discussion, all in favor, motion carries.**

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Don LaPlante to adjourn meeting at 6:58 PM, seconded by Marsha Lombardi. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tina L. Wright- Secretary



Frank Lombardi-Chairman





# United States Department of the Interior



## UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Nulhegan Basin Division

5396 VT Rt. 105, Brunswick, VT 05905

Tel: 802-962-5240, Fax: 802-962-5006

14 November 2018

Mr. Frank Lombardi- President  
Whitefield Conservation Commission  
Whitefield, New Hampshire

RE: Support of establishing a town forest along the Hazen Road

Dear Mr. Lombardi,

As you are aware the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Pondicherry Division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Carroll, Jefferson and Whitefield. The 6,500 acre wildlife refuge is a collaborative conservation partnership with the New Hampshire Audubon and the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation. In 1972, the National Park Service designated the protected wetlands and ponds as a National Natural Landmark.

The extensive trail network that crisscrosses the wildlife refuge is very popular with wildlife viewers, photographers, hunters, anglers, snowmobilers and other recreational enthusiasts. The refuge receives over 10,000 visitors a year and is a popular recreational destination in Northern New Hampshire. The ability of the refuge to serve as a recreational attraction is based on the conservation partnership that protects the area.

I encourage the Whitefield Conservation Commission to consider becoming a partner in the conservation legacy of the Pondicherry refuge. I support the town of Whitefield to designate a town forest on the recently logged property along the Hazen Road. As abutting landowners, I am happy to discuss ways in which we can collaborate to build upon the success of the Pondicherry refuge.

Sincerely,

Steve Agius  
Wildlife Refuge Manager  
Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge