

Whitefield Conservation Commission (via Google Meet)
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021
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Chairman Frank Lombardi called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Frank Lombardi-Chairman, Donald LaPlante, Marsha Lombardi and Marcia Hammon

Members Absent: Edie Worcester

Public Present: David Chase, Elise Lawson and Lisa Courcy.

Frank mentioned that Lisa Courcy needs to be sworn in as a new Conservation Commission member. He will get the Selectmen's approval and signed Oath of Office from Town Clerk, Niccole Vike before the next meeting.

Minutes: A motion was made by Donald LaPlante to accept the minutes as is from the September 15, 2021 meeting, seconded by Marcia Hammon. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carries. APPROVED.

Elise J. Lawson-Update on Natural Resources Inventory:

Elise Lawson has joined the meeting today to go over the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Frank said a property in town owned by David Chase, 110 Elm Street would be one worth adding to the study.

Elise said her plan is when there is landowner permission, to go in and do some field work which involves assessing and looking at the wetlands, vegetation, wildlife and overall diversity of the area. She said she takes a GPS location of where she is, makes notes, takes pictures and will bring it back to the Conservation Commission. There might be more wetlands than what the mapping shows. David asked if the mapping is a lot of work. Elise said yes, lots of work, fortunately Whitefield has a lot of data and writing the reports takes as much time as mapping. The mapping is a great tool for the town that can be constantly updated.

Marcia asked if the Granite State Landfill goes in, what is the impact?

Elise said what the NRI will do is give you a tool so that when you comment on this land fill you can say hey we did a NRI and this is what we have found and we're concerned. NRI is not a regulatory document it's just a document of what you have then you can take that to the Planning Board and Selectboard for possible ordinances for wetland protection.

Frank said for example when the Northern Pass was coming through the NRI report from 2005, the Town used it as an example as view sheds and areas that are important to the Town. Any documentation like this will help.

Elise mentioned that she had a couple of towns contact her to help (Northumberland and Lancaster) that were concerned about Northern Pass and drew upon the NRI studies to help with that.

Donald asked back when you did the original NRI with John Severance did you have any sort of form or letter that you would send to the landowners to ask for permission to access their property?

Elise said they did most of it by phone and since John lived in Whitefield and knew everybody he was able to reach out to people. We always asked and we would get verbal permission too. She said they did a project years ago in Randolph and had one resident who did not want us on their property. They wanted us to make sure we had permission verbally but written as well. It's a good idea to have at least an email or something written down. Verbal is not good enough anymore. Frank asked if we needed to come up with a letter. Don said yes, or either some sort of request that we can send through email or the mail. Frank asked Elise and Don if they could come up with something. Elise said she will draft something up and share with everyone. There is no rush on this. Elise said she could do some field work in the winter but it is better to do it when things are blooming and leaves are out. Frank asked Dave if he had any questions and if he was ok with them checking out his property and doing this study. Dave said yes, go ahead I have no problems. Elise told Dave she will let him know when we plan on doing this and more than likely it will be when the black flies are out and told him he is more than welcome to join. Frank asked Marcia Hammon if we need to do another location on the southwestern part of town where the landfill is going to be located, near Forest Lake. Marcia said she is interested and the one to connect with is Sara Doucette, she seems to know a lot about this landfill and she has property very close to it. Frank asked Marcia if she could contact her and Marcia said yes.

Other Business:

Frank had another big question for the Conservation Commission. He said we have around \$2,000 left in our account that we did not use this year. He said he would like to make a motion to add more days for Elise to do. Frank said we have until next month to decide or we lose it, not saying we have to spend it. Don said he did research on these funds and rolling them over. Statute RSA 36A:5.

***See Attached.**

Don said the point is according to how I read this these are our funds, once the town appropriates them the town can't take them back and add them to the surplus. Only people who can authorize disbursement of the funds is the Conservation Commission. The Selectmen cannot take the money. Elise mentioned she was on the Bethlehem Conservation Commission and they had the same thing and the money stayed with the Conservation Commission. Don said once the Town creates a Conservation Commission it's under our authority. They can't take the funds back. Frank asked until we can figure this out what can we do? Don said we need to go in front of the Selectboard and ask them to not take the money back. Lisa asked if the funds aren't used do we lose them? Don said that is what has been happening and they can't do that. It is our funds to use as we see fit. Frank said it sounds good and doesn't think they've ever done this and might not have enough time. Until we settle this, does anyone want to spend

any more money with Elise on field work? We could get a few more days out of Elise this spring or summer. Elise said that three or four days usually can give a good overall coverage. Frank said he would like to see more days on the field work, we don't need to use the whole \$2,000.


Don made a motion to expend for Elise Lawson another three days of field work for the sum of \$1,000. Marcia Hammon seconds the motion. All in favor. None opposed. PASSES

Frank said for homework everyone tries to find more locations for the study. Marcia asked if the Fish and Game Department is in charge of the airport marsh area and do you have the outline for their responsibility or could you acquire that? Elise said so do you mean that they have some state land that is protected? Frank said it's the Federal Government. The Dodge family owns a couple. He wanted to bring Dodge up, looks like a statutory permit and I think they are going to be doing some logging and wanted to show everyone where this is taking place. Marcia asked why there is a sign that says Fish and Game. Don said no it's not Fish and Game it's the Silvi O. Conte, that's all Federal. Frank said these two lots, the Dodge lots, are very wet and south of the airport and I think that's what they are referring to for logging. Whatever the project is, they have until 2023. This is something they are going to be timber harvesting. Elise said it's a wetland permit and for forestry all they have to do is a notification. Just basically saying yes there is going to be some logging there. Frank said maybe we could do some research? Fix that culvert? We would need to get permission from the Dodges. He asked Elise to add this one too. Frank asked if anyone had any other questions or concerns. The Conservation Commission discussed a December meeting and decided to not have one in December.

The next meeting will be Wednesday January 12, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Donald LaPlante to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 p.m., seconded by Lisa Courcy. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:


Tina Wright - Acting Secretary


Frank Lombardi - Chairman