

MADISON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marcia McKenna-Vice Chair, Nancy Devine, Marc Ohlson, Ralph Lutjen, Josh Shackford – Selectmen Rep, Robbin Rancourt – alternate

MEMBERS EXCUSED: David Riss– Chair, and Ted Slader– alternate

OTHERS PRESENT: Colleen King – Land Use Administrator

MEETING POSTED: 10/27/2016 at Town Hall (upper & lower levels), Madison Post Office, and Silver Lake Post Office

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McKenna called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The September 1, 2016 minutes were reviewed and edits made. Ms. Devine motioned to approve as amended; Mr. Lutjen seconded. All approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS & CONTINUING PROJECTS:

1. **WILLIAM BARCLAY LAND DONATION** –Will be discussed at next meeting.

2. **FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS**–

-**Wold Lot Forest** - Mr. Ohlson reported that the field has been brush-hogged.

-**Goodwin-Burke Town Forest** – Mr. Rancourt reported that most of the work has been done, such as the mowing of the trails, the clean-up of trails. This will stay on the agenda until March. Mr. Nolan looked at the Brook Trail extension that was built 2 yrs ago and should be done in the spring. That trail is extremely sandy. The Jackman Ridge should be done once a year. Ms. McKenna confirmed with Mr. Rancourt that the blazing of the trails has been done and we should expect an invoice for work completed.

-**Everett Parker Lot Forest Management Plan**- Mr. Rancourt explained that this area is the rectangular area 4-way corner and the southern and eastern boundaries needs to be done. Mr. Ohlson asked if there was a question on the boundary lines. Mr. Rancourt stated that the loggers on the Freedom Forest, the corner marker may have been taken out inadvertently. Mr. Nolan has located the other 3 corner markers. The spring is the best time to blaze the trail. The paint will not adhere to the trees if the trees are frozen. Mr. Rancourt will discuss with Dr. Riss for the next meeting

-**Ward Lot Forest**– Ms. McKenna reviewed the four items which need to be done and remain on the agenda: repainting western and northern boundary, removal of Japanese Knotweed, partnering with the Madison elementary school to build bluebird boxes, and re-mark the recreational trail. The Japanese Knotweed should not be mowed as it will spread more and it is very difficult to eradicate it. A commercial grade weed killer is needed to kill it. This can be removed from future agendas. The bluebird boxes project with the Madison Elementary School is on hold until spring. Ms. Devine reported that on Hurricane Point, there were trees down and the hand- trimming has been done.

-**Blair's Location**–Three things needed to be kept on the agenda; the boundary lines

need to be repainting, wood duck boxes need to be built, and the riparian zone need to be set. The boxes are best put out in the winter. Mr Rancourt suggested asking NSCS District Officer Nels Roseldohl; he was the person in charge of the Pine barren burn. If there are not any boxes made, Ms. McKenna suggested getting some boxes made. Riparian Zone has a 100' setback and should remain on future agendas.

-B & M Lots– Deed restrictions on the Currier property. Ms. McKenna questioned who would be doing the update on this property. Mr. Rancourt thought that maybe Mr. Nolan might do it. Mr. Rancourt stated that Tom and Tara now own the Currier property and there needs to be a deeded right-of-way for the Town. Mr. Rancourt stated that Tom Currier, before he passed away, gave a spoken ROW to the Town and also to Stephen Thomas, as a way to access his property. Ms. McKenna stated that this needs to be resolved and should stay on future agendas.

TOWN CONSERVATION LANDS- No report for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Microburst damage on Lead Mine – Ms. McKenna asked if we had received an invoice for cleanup. Mrs. King reported that Forest Land Trail Clean-up (Goodwin Forest mowing of Jackman Ridge) had been budgeted for \$1000.00 and an \$760.00 invoice was received. There is an estimate between \$700.00 and \$1000.00 but the work has not been done yet. We need the estimate from Mr. Nolan before the funds can be approved. This should stay on the agenda and be discussed at the next meeting.

Veilleux Tree Removal – Ms. McKenna suggested that an estimate be submitted for approval. The trees have been identified and Mrs. King read an email from Dr. Riss stating the tree removal estimate is between \$1600.00 and \$2000.00, leaving only the brush on the property. The mowing was completed. There was some discussion of who would pay.

Motion: Mr. Rancourt made a Motion to appropriate \$1600.00 for removal of hazardous and declining trees on Veilleux property which have been identified by Mr. Nolan; Mr Lutjen seconded. The fund will come from the Forestry Account. Ms. McKenna, Ms. Devine and Mr Lutjen voted to approve the Motion. Mr. Ohlson and Mr. Rancourt voted to Deny. Passed 3-2.

Discussion: Mr. Nolan will do the work. Mr. Ohlson stated that someone creates a hazard and then expects the Town to pay for it. Ms. McKenna concurred. Mr Shackford reviewed circumstances of downed trees after that wind storm and the Town did not pay to remove those trees. It doesn't make any sense that a property owner would expect an abutter to remove trees that may fall down, so that there is a circumference around the property so trees won't fall. Mr. Rancourt commented that the Town would have to clearcut all around their property.

Mr. Shackford agreed that this would apply to anyone abutting Town property. If a property owner wants an abutter to remove unhealthy trees, the property owner should not have to pay; the abutter should pay for the cost of removal. It sets a bad precedence. Mr. Rancourt stated that when this was first brought up, if the Veilleux have a problem with trees on Town land, they should pay to remove them. Ms. Devine agreed with Mr. Shackford that this sets a bad precedence for anyone that has property abutting Town property.

Mr. Lutjen asked if the Motion should be withdrawn and reconsidered. Mr. Shackford stated that if a property owner brings a situation like this to the Town's attention and they want the trees

removed, the taxpayers should not have to pay for it. **Motion:** Mr. Rancourt made a Motion to withdraw the previous Motion; Mr. Lutjen seconded. All Approved. Motion passed.

Discussion: Mr. Rancourt stated that when the Veilleux bought that lot, they identified/flagged all the trees on their land and on the Town land which the Veilleux considered a problem. The Town took the trees down that they had flagged and also took down 4-5 big pitch pines on the Town land. One of the trees was dead and at the Veilleux' request, the other 3-4 trees were taken down for sun exposure. The Town has accommodated them by taking down every tree that they had flagged. There was further discussion on whether legal counsel should be obtained and Mr. Ohlson objected saying that there are millions of miles of property lines abutting Town land. Ms. Devine stated that there are two issues: this sets a bad precedence and this situation will continue. Mr. Rancourt stated that once a landowner brings a potentially harmful situation to the attention of the Town, the Town needs to address it. Mr. Lutjen suggested that a legal opinion should be given before a decision is made. Mrs. King will contact Attorney Diane Gorrow. Mr. Shackford stated that the Town should not have to pay to remove any more trees. All trees in question have already been identified and removed. Mr. Rancourt stated that the Veilleux' paid to have trees removed when they first bought the property. Mr. Shackford suggested that Mrs. King call Attorney Gorrow for a legal opinion and should be covered under the Town's retainer. The Town has done their Due Diligence from the beginning of this situation.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT- Selectman Shackford reported that the budget has been set and questioned whether the Conservation Commission would be changing their budget. Ms. McKenna asked if there is enough in the budget for Administration. Mrs. King reported that she is only allotted 2 hours a week and is currently over budget. Mr. Ohlson recommended that \$750.00 increase over \$1500 for a total of \$2250.00 for Administration.

Motion: Ms. Devine made a Motion to increase the Administrators line on the budget by \$750 to allow an extra hour per week; Mr. Ohlson seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Shackford requested that Mrs. King give this information to Su Stacey, Finance Director.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT- Mr. Ohlson reported that Planning Board reviewed the CIP.

FRIEND'S OF MADISON BOULDER- Mr. Lutjen reported that this project is complete with the State taking over, the two kiosks are in place and the road has been improved. This will be removed from future agendas.

ADMINISTRATION & CORRESPONDENCE- Discussion of tree removal on Town land.

ADJOURNMENT- Mr. Ohlson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Rancourt.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM The next Regular Meeting is December 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen King
Land Use Boards Administrative Assistant

These minutes were approved with edits at the December 1, 2016 meeting.