



**TOWN OF MADISON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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**Conservation Commission Approved Minutes
March 1, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marcia McKenna, Ralph Lutjen, Nancy Devine, Marc Ohlson, Emily Bass, Ted Slader - Alternate and Josh Shackford- Selectman's Rep.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ralph Lutjen

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Nolan

MEETING POSTED: February 22, 2018 at Madison Town Hall (upper and lower levels) and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McKenna called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 8, 2018 MINUTES: Ms. Devine made a **Motion** to approve the February 8, 2018 Draft Minutes with edits, seconded by Mrs. Bass. All Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Logging in Goodwin-Burke.

Mr. Tim Nolan reported on the timber sale that started in summer 2017 and ended in the fall 2017. Everything is complete with the paperwork work for the Town and the Timber Tax. On the timber sale of Goodwin-Burke trees netted the Town, after expenses, \$15,352.00 in income and \$2161.00 in Timber Tax. Ms. Devine asked what account did this money go into and is it available to purchase more land? Mr. Shackford stated that it went into the Forest Maintenance Account and the Timber Tax goes in to the General Fund. Ms. McKenna was extremely pleased with the outcome and commented that even at interval stages of the project, the area was immaculate. The feedback received has all been positive.

At a previous meeting, there was discussion regarding access to the Everett-Parker land. Last November, Mr. Nolan approached the Freedom Town Forest Advisory Committee with a proposal and a map and asked about using the roads through the Freedom Town Forest to access the Everett-Parker land in Madison. It was met with much displeasure and they would need to consult with their own town forester first. After several months with no communication, Mr. Nolan called the Freedom Town Forester and he thought the timing was fine. He expected that the road would be put back to the

original condition, but there is no interest on the Town's part to allow Town of Madison (Nolan) access. Ms. McKenna asked what were the objections? Freedom did not want the road destroyed. Mr. Nolan pointed out that it is currently a logging road that Freedom uses for logging and he would be willing to post a bond to insure that the road would be put back into original condition. Freedom didn't want the land used in the winter as a snowmobile trail and they had concerns about people using it in the summer. Mr. Nolan believed that Freedom just did not want to grant access over their land. Ms. McKenna stated that access to that area would be convoluted and Mr. Nolan agreed. He proposed some alternatives to access this land from Black Brook Road in Madison. The access would require going over the Downs' property or Freedom land and both parties agreed to allow access. Selectman Shackford was surprised that Freedom would not allow us access over their land as there would not be any damage. Freedom voted those roads as Class A Municipal Trails and by Statute the Selectman have oversight of these lands. Ms. Devine inquired about the location of the landing areas for the logging. Mr. Nolan offered to give the plans to Mr. Shackford to approach Freedom Selectman for approval. The ideal time to do the work would be late summer/fall of 2018; however, 2019 would work also. The best alternative is to access this area through Freedom. Ms. McKenna suggested that this remain on the agenda for April.

Last spring (2017) the boundary lines of the Goodwin-Burke, Everett-Parker and Blair's Location were painted. In the Forest Management Plans, the next two areas for boundary painting are Ward lots and the B&M lots. These areas could be done either this spring or next year.

Mr. Nolan asked if the Commission wanted the maintenance done on the hiking trail in the Goodwin-Burke Forest along the Jackman Ridge, the mowing of the landing in Goodwin-Burke. The mowing has been done every year as maintenance and this encourages the public to use the area. The mowing is usually done just before Old Home Week. Ms. McKenna suggested having a maintenance plan in place for all these areas. Mr. Nolan offered to put together a Maintenance Plan with a tentative cost/schedule for the April meeting.

At the last meeting, Ms. McKenna asked Mr. Nolan about the trees down on Loon Island. Should the trees be cut and cleaned up? The deed states that the land should be left in natural state. If the trees are cut and the stump left would that help the erosion? Only concern from the Town's perspective, is it a safety hazard? Ms. Devine explained that there is one dead tree being held up by two healthy trees, one dead tree is hanging over the water and another dead tree. Mr. Nolan thinks the trees should be left alone however, hazardous trees can be taken down without approval from DES.

Mr. Ohlson made a **MOTION** to cut the one dead tree on the center of the island that is leaning on two other trees; seconded by Mr. Slader. Mr. Ohlson thinks that the other two dead trees should be left in place as it creates more stability. Vote: All Approved

Mr. Ohlson made a **MOTION** to restrict public access as much as possible. No Second.

Mrs. Bass made a suggested that education need to be done. Ms. Devine suggested that SLAM could put a notice in their newsletter.

Mr. Ohlson made a **MOTION** that the ladies who are authorities, create verbiage for a sign to be voted on at the April meeting. Ms. Devine reminded the Commission that resident Ron Force offered to pay for the sign. Mr. Shackford seconded. All Approved.

Mr. Ohlson offered to call Mr. Force about the Commission's decision.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Madison Hiking Trail Update:

Mrs. Devine, Mr. Slader and Mr. Lutjen will update at the April 2018 meeting.

B. B&M Lots (Currier ROW Deed Restriction Update): Tom Currier donated property off the dump road to the Town and kept one lot for himself. Mr. Ohlson reported that the Town does not have access to the donated lot and would need a ROW across the lot retained by the Curriers. Currently there is no legal ROW for the Town to cross the Currier property and it is gated. Mr. Ohlson asked if Tom and Tara Currier Jr need to be approached for permission or maybe have the Town's legal counsel write up an agricultural recreation ROW for proposed logging and foot traffic recreation that are in line with the deed restrictions. Mr. Slader stated that there are no trails on that property.

A strip of land has power lines and there are wetlands that needs to be crossed. Mr. Nolan stated that maybe a culvert might be needed. Mr. Nolan suggested that the terms be hashed out before any legal documents are drawn up. Mr. Ohlson volunteered to contact Mr. Currier.

Mr. Nolan asked if all the Towns' property lines have been clarified, identified and painted.

Before the April meeting, Mr. Nolan will take a cursory look at which properties need attention.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Town Meeting

Ms. McKenna will be there to address any questions on the Conservation Commission budget.

B. Lead Mine Road - Mining Activity

This will be on the May 2018 agenda.

SELECTMAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Shackford reported on the funds in each of the Conservation Accounts.

The Land Use Change Tax Account is used to buy new properties has \$178,000.00.

The Forest Management Account has \$54,000.00.

The Gift Account has about \$3,000.00

PLANNING BOARD:

Nothing to report

ADMINISTRATIVE/CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING

Ms. McKenna moved to adjourn the public meeting; Ms. Devine seconded.

The public meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen King
Land Use Administrator

These Minutes were APPROVED at the April 5, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting.