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**APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia McKenna, Chair - Present Bill Lord- Present
Marc Ohlson - Present Ted Slader - Present
Ralph Lutjen - Present

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Emily Bass - Excused Nancy Devine – Excused

OTHERS PRESENT: Colleen King - Land Use Administrator, Carol Dandeneau - Madison TV Videographer,

MEETING POSTED: December 18, 2019 Town Hall (upper and lower), Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McKenna called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The November 7, 2019 Draft Minutes were reviewed with no edits. A **MOTION TO APPROVE** the Minutes as written was made by Mr. Lord; Mr. Lutjen seconded. All Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. McKenna opened the meeting for Public Comment.

Mike Digregorio from Conway wanted to offer advice to the Commission regarding the wording of deeds for future gifted land. In his commercial solar business, he has been involved with other NH towns that have wanted to use donated land for solar arrays. However, there were deed restrictions that prevented this and the towns lost an opportunity for potential income. He suggested that wording be included in future deeds to allow green energy opportunities on the property and offered his assistance, if needed.

Ms. McKenna closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

BARCLAY PROPERTY SIGN: The new sign for the Barclay land was presented and the Board discussed when the sign should be placed. This will be on the April agenda and Nancy Devine will be notified.

B & M LOTS: Nothing to report

LAND DONATION: (Background information - Beth Blankenstein contacted Mrs. King, regarding a donation of land on Map 116, Lot 22 (20 acres in Current Use) and Map 221 Lot 18 (.59 acres), for Conservation purposes only. Both parcels are impacted by the northerly flowing Forest Brook and are significant for the protection of wetlands. Ms. Devine made a MOTION to accept this donation of 20 acres on Map 116 Lot 22 and .59 acres on Map 221 Lot 18, for Conservation purposes only, by Beth and Ron Blankenstein; seconded by Mrs. Bass. All Approved. Mrs. King will forward to Selectmen and Town Counsel.) Mr. Lord reported that the Board of Selectmen decided not to accept this land donation because there were many deed restrictions that were not in the best interest of the town. Ms. McKenna suggested that the land be put under a Conservation Easement. Mr. Ohlson stated that there is probably little use for the property and the town should take it to preempt any enforcement issues. Mr. Lord suggested that Linda Shackford respond to the Blankensteins and ask if they would consider a Conservation Easement. Mrs. King will email the owners and ask if they would agree with the Commission's thoughts.

TREES ON WINTER ROAD UPDATE: Mr. Lord thanked Mr. Lutjen for his offer to look at tree selection for the WWI Memorial. This will be on the May agenda. Mr. Lord contacted Tim Nolan to move the full-length trees to the Madison Lumber Mill.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CONSERVATION PROPERTIES: Ms. McKenna wondered if the NHCCA would assist us with guidelines for walking the Conservation properties. Mr. Lutjen remembered a form that would be filled out when the property boundaries were walked.

Mr. Slader had a list of Commission members who were assigned to walk each property. Mrs. King will contact the NHCAA and ask for there for the process of reviewing the properties, such as land easements and Town Conservation land. There may be 2 different procedures. Ms. McKenna remembered a legal fund that might assist in legal issues in the future. Mr. Lord stated that Upper Saco Valley may have a similar program.

OLD HOME WEEK UPDATE: Mrs. King discussed the possibility of having the Squam Lake Science Center. Mr. Lord remembers a Raptor presentation through the library. Mrs. King will contact Sloane at the Library.

TOWN WARRANT: Ms. McKenna asked about the Conservation's request for \$5K. Mrs. King stated that although it is too late for a Warrant Article, a Citizen's Petition with 25 registered voter signatures could be presented by Feb 4. Mr. Ohlson remembered that historically this \$5K has been a standing Warrant Article with the Selectmen's blessing but last year, Conservation was asked to forgo it.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT: A Thank You to Mr. Lutjen for his assistance in the WWI planting. SLAM has been involved with NH Dot and getting the culvert near the Silver Lake Post Office redesigned for proper drainage. There will be an update at the June meeting Mr. Lord nominated Ms. Devine to write a small article in GMCC newsletter.

Mr. Lord signed the Solar agreement was signed for town.

BOS approved CC budget w/o \$5K for land acquisition LUCT Warrant Article to reduce % from 50% to 15% going to Conservation. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen are in favor of this reduction and there will be an opportunity at Town Meeting to address that percentage.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Nothing to report

ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE: At the next meeting, Mrs. King would like to take a photo for the 2019 Annual Report.

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 8:10pm made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Lutjen. All Approved.

These Minutes recorded by: Colleen King

These minutes were APPROVED at the March 5, 2020 Conservation meeting.