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MINUTES
May 5, 2022

MEMBER PRESENT: Co-Chair Marcia McKenna; Co-Chair Ralph Lutjen; Planning Board Representative Marc Ohlson; Selectmen's Representative Mike Mauro; Robert Stone; Alternates Ted Slader and Noreen Downs

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Nolin; Mad TV

MEETING POSTED: This meeting was posted at Madison Town Hall Upper & Lower, Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March 3, 2022 and April 7, 2022 were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chain of Ponds – McKenna has been in communication with Abby King from Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT). King informed McKenna that The Conservation Fund has expressed interest in obtaining the Chain of Ponds property and the UVLT would joint them. King's supervisors have given her more time to look into this project. Potentially, the UVLT and the Fund will split the appraisal cost. A plan to do a site visit of the property has been penciled in for May 20th with time and place to be determined.

McKenna asked Cyr to contact the person that performed the appraisal on the property in 2009 for a price. A \$4,000.00 quote was offered noting it was \$2,500.00 in 2009.

Downs spent time quantifying the properties and had paperwork the showed seven properties making up the Crowe and High Acres parcels equaling 687 acres. Downs stated that these are prime properties for protection only accessed from Madison Shores Blvd and Forest Pines Road.

Updated Conservation Property Site Inspection Form – The form necessitates some further changes. Lutjen will meet with Shackford on Monday to review.

Cedar Swamp Hike Overview – Nolin reported that Slader, Lutjen and Bass joined him walking the boundaries and checked out the bog. Their hike included seeing osprey, herons, ducks, song birds and erratic rocks. McKenna reviewed the deed restriction for the property assessing if a snowmobile trail would be allowed. Nolin suggested waiting until the commission is approached before taking action on the trail.

Downs asked Nolin if he would suggest any action be taken on the property per his review. Nolin stated no, the beavers that are coming and going are not an issue. Nolin noted that there are some mature cedars on the property.

Old Home Week Presentations – Slader contacted Wildlife Encounters in Barrington and it was determined that their program would suit the needs of the OHW presentation. They will bring seven animals, with several that can be petted. The cost would be \$435.20 which includes mileage. Slader will attempt to contact the OHW representative to be put on the program schedule asking for August 7th with 3:00pm – 6:00pm for the setup/cleanup and 4:00pm to 5:00pm for the event. The commission unanimously agreed to fund the project from the OHW line of the commission operating budget. Slader will get the bill to Shackford asking for a check to be ready to pay the company at the event. This will be kept on the agenda for the June and July meetings with six members being needed for the setup and cleanup. Downs would like to know if the company will allow it to be filmed by MadTV.

The hike location sponsored by the commission needs to be determined. Ohlson noted that the Ward property has not been done in a few years. Ohlson will contact an OHW representative about which days work for the program schedule and some thought will be given to which property to hike.

Old Business:

Forest Land Improvement Management Activities Proposal for 2022 – Nolin's proposal was reviewed with Nolin noting that marking the boundaries on the Wold property and installation of a gate at the western log landing are new items on the proposal for 2022. The proposal also included mowing, trail maintenance for a total of \$3,625.00.

Motion by Downs, seconded by Lutjen to approve the \$3,625 budget for the 2022 management activities. The motion passed **unanimously**.

Nolin confirmed that continuing with yellow marking paint is acceptable. The commission agreed.

Fadden Property – Shackford informed the commission that a copy of the intent to cut was received and sent the McKenna on Tuesday. McKenna wants a letter sent asking them to attend a commission meeting. Nolin suggested to let Fadden know that plans are in place to accommodate the terms of the easement, meaning the boundary has been flagged by Nolin. McKenna would like to see an opinion from the Town's new attorney. McKenna alluded to fining the logger if the easement is not upheld. Nolin does not recall there being any mention of monetary fines in the easement. Nolin's opinion of the easement is that it is old, open ended, ambiguous and very open to interpretation.

Nolin suggested that Code Officer Boyd be involved in the overseeing of this project. Shackford interjected that Boyd is already committed to his large volume of building and code responsibilities and would not be available for this. Downs asked Nolin to suggest someone. Nolin can only commit a small amount of his time and would not be every day. Nolin felt it does make sense that he would be the person to oversee it and would be surprised if Fadden violated the easement terms.

Motion by Downs, seconded by Slader to commit up to \$650.00, equaling 10 hours at \$65/hour, to have Nolin monitor the McNair Easement. The motion passed **unanimously**.

McKenna reiterated that the commission wants to meet with Fadden and will do so any Thursday evening. Shackford will extend that invitation to Fadden.

NEW BUSINESS:

Valley Pride Day – is scheduled for Saturday. Pick up gloves and bags between 8:30 and 10:00am at the school.

Property Inspections – commission members will sign up for which properties they would like to inspect.

SELECTMEN’S REPORT: Mauro said the Selectmen did sign the Intent to Cut for the Fadden property at their meeting on Tuesday and they are all in the hopes that the easement will be respected. Mauro is anxious to hear the attorney’s take on the situation. A portion of the boat ramp is completed with more panels having been ordered to complete the section out of the water.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: The Board will have a meeting on June 1st at the school commencing at 6:00 with a large focus on Short Term Rentals.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT: McKenna stated the Green Mountain Conservation Commission is thankful for the donation related to obtaining the Davis Pond Property. That cannot be officially done until there is a public hearing this summer.

ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE:

- June 1st at Runnells Hall from 5:00 to 6:30 the GMCG will put on a drinking water pollution seminar.
- The State culvert across from the Silver Lake Post office is still up in the air awaiting DES information.
- GMCG’s “20 Years of Rivers” publication was made available for the members inspection

ADJOURNMENT: Ohlson made a **Motion** to adjourn; Slader seconded. All Approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Shackford
Town Administrator