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MINUTES
February 10, 2022

MEMBER PRESENT: Marcia McKenna, Co-Chair; Ralph Lutjen, Co-Chair; Marc Ohlson, PB Rep; Robert Stone Ted Slader, Alt

MEMBER EXCUSED: Bill Lord, Selectmens Rep; Emily Bass; Noreen Downs, Alt

OTHERS PRESENT: Forester Tim Nolin, Vicki Fadden, Tom Fadden, Harold Whitaker, Town Administrator Linda Shackford, Moselle Spiller - Madison TV

MEETING POSTED: February 7, 2022 at Madison Town Hall Upper & Lower, Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices.

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

ELEVATE ALTERNATE: While there was a quorum, Slader was elevated to a voting member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The January 13, 2022 minutes were reviewed. A **MOTION** to APPROVE, was made by Ohlson and seconded by Lutjen. The motion passed **5-0**.

New Business:

McNair Property Easement 246-013: McKenna invited Fadden and Whitaker to join the commission in a discussion of the property they recently acquired from Malcolm McNair with respect to the conservation easement in place. A copy of the easement marked by McKenna was presented to Fadden and Whitaker.

McKenna asked if they have a timeframe for logging. Fadden responded being so late in the winter they do not have a plan, but do intend to log. McKenna asked if they plan to harvest any specific species with Fadden responding it depends on how the discussion to night goes. McKenna asked if after harvest will they re-seed with Fadden responding they do not have a plan yet. Fadden added that they have not done anything regarding the easements as they just closed but plan to follow them.

McKenna stated that the commissions position is to defend the easement making sure it is followed with nothing out of the original intent happening.

McKenna reiterated information from the easement stating that clear cutting is not permitted, preservation and protection of deer herd and protection of deer habitat are required, the land cannot be subdivided and open space and general conservation purposes are to be maintained. The easement encompasses 148 acres.

Nolin stated that the line defining the easement area has not been marked since the establishment of the easement suggesting that the Town should look into defining the boundary.

McKenna pointed out specific portions of the easement to be noted:

- Structures and Alteration on the Property – citing it is noted to be a selective harvest and that roads are to be closed after the use has ended; and that no changes to the topography, water, wetlands or habitats unless necessary; and
- Interfering with the beaver dams is not permitted;
- The Commission is allowed reasonable access to the property for inspections.

McKenna asked if Fadden would mark the trees to be harvested prior to harvest to which Fadden responded they have not decided what to do yet. Fadden

McKenna stated that the commission will take the responsibility for blazing the boundary of the easement with Nolin stated he could be available in the next couple of weeks to help. Nolin noted that it is an old easement that would be more detailed if done today.

McKenna thanked Fadden and Whitaker for attending the meeting as they left the meeting.

Ohlson asked if the commission can hire Nolin to find the easement boundary. Nolin stated that he can refresh existing markers but not establish a boundary. Nolin informed McKenna that when the intent is submitted it cannot be held, with Shackford adding that it will be processed at the earliest opportunity.

Nolin feels that the easement has subjective language regarding habitats. He hopes that any cutting done will be done conservatively in the easement areas. Nolin will do his best to get out the property soon.

Chain of Ponds – McKenna skipped over this as Shawn Bergeron was unavailable to attend.

Updated Conservation Property Site Inspection Form – Lutjen presented a draft Inspection Report with a Task List and section for Observations. The members felt the document was ready to begin embarking on property inspections. Ohlson suggested adding to the title “town properties” with the commission in agreement that the document will be titled “Conservation Easement and Town Properties Monitoring Inspection Report”. McKenna these inspections should ideally be performed annually.

Warrant Article for RSA 36-A:4-a for Commission Donations – McKenna thanked members that obtained signatures on the petition article for the adoption of RSA 36-A:4-a. The Selectmen voted not to support the article so Town Meeting may need to be convinced to pass it. Donations have been done in passed years but since then, without adoption of the RSA, it is not possible to make the donations. The petition article does not allow the donation to be made without a public hearing and approval of the Selectmen. McKenna asked all members to attend Town Meeting and either speak or grant their speaking time to her.

Old Business:

Tree Cutting Policy – McKenna asked that this remains on the agenda for the next meeting. Ohlson sees this policy as necessary for only one parcel in town that is owned by the Veilleuxs. Ohlson suggested asking the Selectmen to read the deed to the property and Goodwin Town Forest and use those documents to make an agreement. A copy of the deed will be provided at the next meeting.

Public Comments: There were none.

Selectman's Report – No report

Planning Board Report – Ohlson reported of a cluster subdivision on Conway Road and the latest information regarding short-term rentals noting the decision by Judge Ignatius in the Conway case. Ohlson offered his non-support of the petition warrant article on the ballot hoping it does not pass.

Administrative Correspondence

GMCG Newsletter

ADJOURNMENT: Ohlson made a **Motion** to adjourn; Stone seconded. All Approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Shackford
Town Administrator