

Approved

Conservation Commission Meeting Public Minutes May 10, 2023

Members in attendance: Mark Young (Chairman), Bob Stephens, Lise McNaughton, Andy Laroche, Matt Lipinski, Andy Artimovich, Doug Cowie (Alternate), Becky Dunham (Alternate)

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Motion by McNaughton, second by Laroche to make Doug Cowie a voting member for this meeting. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Cowie, second by Stephens to approve public meeting minutes of 4/12/23. Unanimously approved.

Appraisal Grant

Chairman Young reported that the paperwork necessary to receive a 50% reimbursement on a recent property appraisal ordered by the Commission will be submitted.

Road Signs

Wayne Robinson from the Brentwood Highway Department addressed the Commission regarding its recommendation to install signs along the Class VI roads in town requesting vehicles avoid use of those roads during mud season. **Wayne reported that no tax dollars may be used to maintain those roads and the only signs which can be posted on them are signs which state the roads are not maintained and travel on them is at your own risk.** Wayne explained that posting any other signs could result in potential liability for the town. Following discussion, a motion was made by Stephens, seconded by Laroche, to withdraw the previous recommendation made to the Selectboard to approve use of alternate signage. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cemetery Needs

Joyce Keegal, Brentwood Cemetery Superintendent, addressed the Commission about the need for additional cemetery land. In previous discussions with the Commission about this topic, it was acknowledged that cemetery expansion was needed in order to comply with the state statute requiring each town to provide burial sites for all town residents who may want to purchase one. She advised that she currently has 90 spaces remaining available in the existing town cemetery. The Commission has consistently favored keeping these cemetery needs in mind as it assessed properties for potential conservation and in tonight's discussions, again reinforced its interest in doing so. Stephens suggested conferring with town legal counsel to determine whether open space funds per an approved warrant article last year could be used to purchase cemetery land. Following discussion, it was acknowledged that as we have done in the past, the Commission

would continue to look for and identify cemetery expansion needs in properties under consideration for conservation, and going forward, would heighten its scrutiny of properties for this possible use.

Town Line Markers

Chairman Young advised that he would contact neighboring towns to start the process of coordinating to verify the accuracy of town boundaries per the state requirement. Artimovich recommended we obtain existing boundary data from neighboring towns (Epping, Exeter, Kingston, and Fremont) as a first step and go forward from there to complete the requirement.

Other Items

Chairman Young advised that he circulated wetlands reviews to the Commissioners as informational data and to let him know if anyone had concerns or questions.

Artimovich advised of the Planning Board's request that details of town capital project notifications be submitted to Budget Committee so it can plan for those expenses as it conducts budget balancing. Becky Dunham will complete the related form for submission.

Chairman Young advised of the PlanNH sessions to be held on May 12, 2023 at the Rec Center. Lipinski acknowledged he will attend the Stakeholder Session from 1:30-3:00pm on Young's behalf and will send an RSVP to Jillian Benedix, Planning Board Administrative Assistant, to so advise.

Artimovich noted that a ceremony will be held on May 12, 2023, to commemorate the 9th anniversary of Officer Stephen J. Arkell's death in the line of duty.

Motion by Lipinski, second by Cowie to go into nonpublic session for purposes of discussing legal issues. Upon individual roll call vote, all members in attendance approved.

Upon return to public session, Lipinski moved to adjourn the meeting; Cowie seconded. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.