

**Town of Haverhill
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**R. E. Clifford Memorial Building
65 South Court St.
Woodsville, NH 03785**

Monday, November 16, 2020

Commission Members Present: Marie Bjelobrk, Chair; Linda Smith; Katie Huggard; and Fred Garofalo, Select Board liaison.

The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:00 PM by Marie Bjelobrk. A quorum was met.

AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION #1: Bjelobrk made the motion and Garofalo seconded the motion to accept the meeting agenda as written.

Voice Vote: All members stated “Aye.” The minutes were approved unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Bjelobrk stated that there are no minutes from the August 24, 2019, and the September 21, 2020, meetings. Bjelobrk will follow up with the Town Manager.

PENDING OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Scholarship Funds

Bjelobrk opened the discussion and Garofalo stated that at \$250/student, the scholarship should be increased. Garofalo stated that he will bring the scholarship details/forms for Select Board review at the next Select Board meeting. The trustee sponsors of the scholarship are deceased and, thus, Garofalo believes that the scholarship amount cannot change; however, Garofalo will discuss with the Town Manager about a legal way to change the amount of the scholarship.

Garofalo also noted he wished to reconsider the 1,000-word essay. Bjelobrk discussed the scholarship guidelines, which state that the student has to write about environmental-based science. Garofalo noted that that topic is very broad.

Bjelobrk noted that there was \$19,000 in the scholarship account. Bjelobrk recommended a \$2,000 scholarship amount. Marie Bigelow and Scott Horne are trustees of the trust fund.

Conservation Land in Haverhill

Bjelobrk noted that there is conservation land in Haverhill, but it is privately owned by Upper Valley Land Trust and part of a tax benefit.

Conservation Property to Be Donated

Bjelobrk reported on a house lot on Carr Road in Haverhill, which the owner wishes to donate to the Town. Bjelobrk noted that the property does not qualify as conservation land.

Excavation Permits (RSA 155:E.3)

As a Select Board member, Garofalo offered the background of the Blaisdell pit and others noting that there is no resolution yet from the Planning Board. Bjelobrk noted that copies of the permits are required

to be shared with the Conservation Commission. Garofalo stated that there is a line on the document for the signature of the Conservation Commission Chair.

Dredge and Fill Permits (RSA482-A)

Garofalo stated the property owners need a permit for dredging or adding fill, which is usually brought in front of the Planning Board.

Bjelobrk asked is water testing is part of the purview of the Conservation Commission. Garofalo responded “No;” however, he noted that discharging chemicals on a property is the purview of the Health Officer.

Bjelobrk noted that no more than 30 days has been established for the Conservation Commission to review a permit, for example for excavation.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Priorities

Garofalo asked the members if there was anything more they wish to do as a committee.

Huggard suggested taking an inventory of the natural resources in Haverhill. Bjelobrk noted that it would have to be publicly accessible land. Huggard stated that using the UNH Extension Service can offer programs for young people to research a natural resource inventory using GIS. Garofalo noted that there is little public conservation land in Haverhill, for example, farmland under conservation is not open to the public. Huggard stated that the Grafton County Conservation website showed some of the projects going on: dam removal, installing a fish ladder, growth maturity rates for corn, and cover cropping.

Garofalo noted the existing issues with people/businesses coming to Haverhill—there is no cell service, no sewerage treatment, and no workforce, and these issues limit growth in Haverhill.

ADJOURN

Motion #2: Bjelobrk made a motion and Smith seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

Voice Vote: All members stated “Aye.” The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Transcribed by Joanna Bligh