

Conservation Commission for the Town of Haverhill, NH  
May 8, 2019

Conservation Committee Members present:

Sandy Mann  
Brian Smith  
Howard Hatch

Residents in attendance:

Linda Olsen Smith  
Marie Bjelobrk

Residents expressing desire to join the Conservation Commission:

Linda Olsen Smith  
Marie Bjelobrk  
Ezra Mann

Howard Hatch, Select Board ex officio member, opened the meeting at 7:13 PM with a quorum. Five citizens met at 7:00, but no recorder was available. At 7:13 Sandy Mann offered to take written minutes, hoping the Town will accept them without a recording.

Sandy Mann offered to be chairperson. Brian Smith nominated her as chairperson. Howard Hatch seconded the nomination. The Commission accepted Sandy unanimously.

The Commission shared their support for the three citizens mentioned above to join the Conservation Commission on Monday at the Select Board meeting on May 13th. Linda and Marie received the questions they will be asked. The Commission requests that the Select Board consider these three applicants at that time.

The Commission agreed to meet at six o'clock until further notice so Ezra Mann can attend both the Conservation and Airport Commission meetings.

The quorum of members discussed the Clark Road Bridge environmental permit. Howard Hatch was not aware that this permit was to be voted on tonight and felt concern that he had not had a chance to read it. Howard shared numerous concerns about the project. He stated that Clark Brook dries up there and no fish are in that area. He believes that the culvert is fine and does not need to be replaced. Water came from a broken Beaver dam on Dick Fabrizio's, which caused the brook to run around the sides of the culvert. Both Howard and Brian have concern about the costs that will be incurred. Sandy Mann said that the project seems excessive for the problem. However, rather than deny the project, Brian believed it is best to move ahead with it. Sandy said she would comply with the two other members because she respects their knowledge

and experience. Howard decided that the past is in the past, but hopes the financial burden will not be excessive. He deferred to Brian's judgement. Mr. Smith made the motion to allow the chair to sign the application packages. Howard seconded it and the motion passed unanimously. Even though the Town notes were clear, Sandy decided to sign the papers early Thursday morning, in front of the Town Manager. Sandy had been told at the Town Office that Howard had taken a copy of the application package to read prior to the meeting, but there was a misconnect which did cause discomfort and concern.

Sandy Mann handed out copies of the Conservation Commissions Report for 2019 to each attendee so all could enjoy the scope and breadth of Commission work up and down the Connecticut River in both NH and Vermont.

The group discussed forming a mission statement to be voted on in June. Howard feels that the term "stewardship" should be included. Brian talked about "Best Practices". Brian shared a story of lethal pesticide use in Texas, where his daughter works as a vet. Howard talked about the farm in Maine that was condemned due to sludge pollution spread on the fields. Sandy added the demise of two boys who walked through a cornfield sprayed with heavy pesticides. The group decided to think about a mission statement over the month and return with statements to share.

Sandy asked the group about Right To Know regulations. Howard shared that no quorum can meet for decision making or work without posting a public notice two days in advance. Sandy mentioned the NH Municipalities flow chart, but does not feel fully confident that she understands it. Howard suggested going to the Town Manager to Hear directly what she expects.

Sandy asked about maps of the Town that the state requires. Howard suggested asking for a Town Plan. Sandy suggested she would go for training if necessary to learn about the mapping. Howard stated that Chris Luurtsema is knowledgeable about the town mapping and would be an excellent resource if he is willing.

Howard shared that there is approximately \$9,000 dollars in a scholarship fund. Sandy offered to find out how this fund operates. She will report back next month.

Lastly, Sandy asked the group if they would be willing to volunteer for Paddle The Border under the auspices of the Conservation Commission. Three members will be able to attend. Howard made a motion that the Conservation Commission volunteer to help out at Paddle The Border. Brian seconded it and all agreed that it was a fine idea.

The meeting was called to a close at 8:03 PM. Everyone left smiling.

---

Addendum to Conservation Meeting May 8, 2019

During our discussion concerning a time change for our monthly meeting due the the concurrent Airport Commission meeting Howard shared that he would like to have been at the airport tour scheduled for the airport commission members. Howard feels that the Select Board, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission should all tour the airport.