

**Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 6, 2017**

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Scott A. Young Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand Susan Barnes Irving Johnson Bruce Smith Katrina Amaral
Guests: Mimi Jost Dan Kern

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:10 pm. A motion was made by Liz and seconded by Dave to accept the February 2017 **minutes**. Approved.

Guest Presentations

• **Bear-Paw Re: more detail on billing**

Dan explained that the estimated budget for a conservation easement is based on their fee schedule, his best guess based on experience with previous easements, and contractor appraisals. Dan pointed out that Bear-Paw projects always cost less than similar projects with other land trusts and returns \$89 to the town for every dollar we contribute. The reasons given for the additional expenses for the Auger property are that the attorney's fee was higher due to having to combine properties, having to hire a new surveyor due to the demise of the usual one, and the title work had to be done by someone other than Carolyn Auger.

MOTION: Scott moved that we accept the bill of \$17,351.13 for the Auger easement. Sue seconded the motion. Approved with two abstentions.

Dan said that DES has yet to approve the trail plan for Evans Mountain. The written approval is expected.

Bennett Island fund raising will continue in the spring.

DES Applications no new applications

- **Response to DES/SCC comments from Randy Orvis on behalf of the Labreques.** This is in reference to the wetlands concerns on the property across from Whig Hill Road. A detailed letter was read and is included as part of these minutes.
- **The Building Inspector and property owner are finally getting DES to respond to the violation complaint filed regarding the docks installed in the Caswell Cove area.** This led to a discussion on illegal docks in general.

Continuing Business

IRCR- nothing new to report

Evans Mountain –see above

Town Forest – After the big snows, we were unable to get the lower Town Forest Road put in by the deadline for the current NRCS project, but Charlie Moreno is working with the folks at NRCS and they may have another option for trying to complete the project as redesigned. The grant is now closed. The Conservation Commission is not concerned with this getting done. It can be revisited if the area needs to be logged.

Other.

- An email came from the New Hampshire Associations of Conservation Commissions regarding SB136. By consensus we will send a letter(s) to our senator in opposition to the bill.

- Liz explained the new zoning rules handed down by the state and said that our town zoning board will use everything available to them to keep the town rural.
- Randy takes over Harmony's news article for the Strafford Calendar.

New Business

- Scott says it was a record last year for white footed mice hence deer ticks for this coming season.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 3 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page