

CCC minutes - DRAFT
12/7/16

Members: Grant Orenstein, Richard Maizell, Drew Lamb (Recorder),
Larry Bush, Julie Hand, Stephanie Kaplan
Guests: Lenis and Doug Bullett, Josh Mulhollem

1. Agenda revisions or additions

Introduction of prospective new CC member Josh Mulhollem –
Just moved to Calais from Randolph and before that Wyoming.
Fisheries biologist. Specializes in aquatic and invasive species.
Works with the Dept of Environmental Conservation. Has worked
with Lakes and Streams Committee at Curtis Pond on preventing
spreading invasives from the public boat ramp area.

2. Approve October minutes

All approved – Grant abstained (not at Oct meeting)

3. Conservation Fund balance – \$82,260.12 as of 10/31

4. Attorney Jim Barlow

Could not attend. Moving to Jan meeting.

5. October Chickering Fen fall foliage walk

Chickering Bog hike with Rose Paul, George Springston. Great
success. Approximately 15 in attendance. Perhaps check with
Rose about a follow up visit at a different time of year (early
June?).

6. Town Report report & request for more Conservation Fund \$

Richard will write a draft for the town report and share with other
members for revisions. Due to town office by Jan 12.

We currently ask for \$4000 a year from the town. Should we ask
for more? The \$82k currently in the fund will be reduced by
roughly half through funding of the Armstrong and Legare

Conservation projects. Some neighboring towns ask taxpayers for considerably more (10k?). The commission feels that we should ask for more to keep a healthy balance for coming projects, including the unnamed, potential, very desirable real estate acquisition to be added to our town forests. The commission decided to request \$8000 from the town.

At town meeting we will present information to support our request for more money for the Conservation Fund. Julie will look into historical uses of the conservation fund and make a table showing what the Conservation Fund money has been used for in the past. Stephanie said she would contact Matt Peters to find out the status of the Natural Resource Inventory.

7. Legare Farm update

The Legare Farm conservation project has stalled and may in fact not occur due to two problems. There is a property line dispute near the eastern boundary of the property near Max Gray Rd. CC had decided that if this issue was resolved, that the CC would still commit \$15k for the project. The other issue is that it turns out that the roughly 40 acre parcel on the west side of the road that was excluded from conservation is actually closer to 80+/- acres. The CC feels strongly that since this exclusion had been such a concern on the part of CC and Selectboard members, that we would want to reconsider our contribution and/or renegotiate the terms of the easement. Jon Ramsay has indicated that Pete Johnson, owner of the Legare Farm, is undecided about going forward with the conservation deal. For the moment we are waiting to hear from Pete and Jon before addressing this further.

8. Armstrong Farm update

Purchase and sale agreement signed by Amanda, Mike, and Ella. VLT currently fundraising to raise the final \$55k to complete the sale. Drew is working with a fund raising team led by Elise Annes from VLT to raise the final amount. He showed us a brochure put together by VLT to support the fundraising.

9. Bliss Town Forest

Drew reported that he and Neal have met to outline a schedule for rewriting the 2014 forest plan prepared by Emily Potter. Drew and Neal and possibly Jan will be doing a day of field work to visit all forest stands and establish priorities.

Larry presented a document on preserving old growth forests, and suggested that the entirety of Bliss Forest be managed for old growth, with no more logging. It includes several articles on the importance of old growth and a document, prepared by Larry, that explains his position on why Bliss Forest should be managed for old growth. Larry shared that he has received strong support from several community and non-community members, including Eric Sorenson.

Drew and Neal will wait on moving forward with forest plan work until they have met with Larry and Eric Sorenson in January. They will form a subcommittee to address how to move forward with the Bliss Forest and report back to the CC.

10. No. Ten Pond shoreline

CC members are concerned about the sale of 3+ acres of land that seems to include the shoreline of #10 Pond. The shoreline lies somewhere between memorial hall and the swim area, and may, in fact, include the swim area itself. Doug Bullett is going to check with Heney Real Estate and the town to find exact location and other information.

11. Other business

12. Public comment

Doug was wondering about road runoff from Ten Pond Rd. because there's no real buffer between the road and the water's edge. Stephanie explained that a number of people have looked at this problem and don't see that there's any real solution because the road is so narrow and hemmed in by a steep slope.

13. Next Meeting Jan 4, 2017 at 7pm at the town office.

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