

June 21st 2018 Winchester Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Present: Gus Ruth, Bonnie Leveille, Norm Sims, Jon Baldvins, Paul Hubner, Tom Turant, Joe Faloretti. Guest: Penny Seaver of Caldwell Bankers

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM. Motion passed to have Norm Sims and Joe Faloretti as regular members for the meeting.

May meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion passed to accept the minutes as read.

Penny Seaver of Caldwell Bankers was present to discuss a property currently for sale on Route 10. The property has been for sale for some time and has steep slopes. There have been various parties interested for commercial ventures including maple syrup operation and for possible recreational cabins. The 230 acre property includes Franklin Mountain. It has been suggested that the WCC might consider a conservation easement on the property. The property also includes a small parcel across route 10 which might make it of interest to the trail route proposed by the AMC. Penny stated that access is difficult but there is a drone video available. Norm suggested a site visit. A date will be set up. Penny also asked that the WCC possibly meet with prospective buyers as the easement might make the property more affordable.

Pudding Hill

Jon and Gus put up the sign and took photos.

Musterfield Park

Hopkinton has done some grubbing but only pushed debris to the sides and down the logging road and the work "looks like hell". They only put in 8 hours which was not the stated hours in the contract. They also knocked down the Musterfield Park sign which Gus had for viewing in his truck. This is in addition to not responding to the Town regarding damage to the cemetery fence. The WCC agreed that there needs to be a letter sent to address reimbursement for the work not being done as agreed, the need to reimburse money for the cost of the fence damage and the sign, as they have already received full payment in the amount of \$3,200. This amount included stumping which Hopkinton did not do and hours worked were less than hours in contract.

Ben stated that the Town attorney will approve a letter to address work not done properly, the damage to the fence and the sign and request reimbursement.

It was suggested that all communication on this matter be done by email to document communication with Wayne Young as this has become a legal matter.

Ben then stated that there are still damaged trees that are leaning that were not cut.

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Gardiner Mountain

The trail bridges at Gardiner Mountain have rotted. A volunteer has offered to repair the bridges. There will be 54 boards needed for the repairs. A waiver of liability will be required for the volunteer to do the work.

Ashuelot River

Margaret has requested that brush be cut between downtown and Rite Aide. (letter on file) The WCC discussed and it was agreed that this can not be done as it would destabilize the bank.

Norm stated that he has spoken with DES regarding the tree behind Hildreth Street that is a safety hazard for boaters. He needs 3-4 people to do the work which will require chain saws and a shallow boat. He will be removing branches that will allow the tree to turn down river and remove the hazard. A crew will be formed and do the work. Paul will help. Paul says the WCC's involvement with the Ashuelot River needs to be ongoing and that the WCC needs to participate in the Source to Sea work.

Membership

Bonnie had been given a list from Jim Tatro regarding members whose terms have expired. A motion was passed to reappoint Mim Johnson as an alternate, Joe Faloretti as a regular member and Norm Sims as an alternate.

Motion to adjourn at 8:20PM

Submitted by:

Bonnie Leveille, Secretary

Bonnie L. Leveille
Chris Hall