

Litchfield Conservation Commission
August 3, 2017
7:00 p.m. Town Hall
2 Liberty Way

Minutes Approved 10/12/2017

Members Present: Tom Levesque – Chairman
Joan McKibben – Vice Chairman
Marion Godzik
Roger St. Laurent
Richard Husband
Harry Menzigian, alternate
Matthew LePore, alternate

Absent: Sharon Jones
Michael Croteau
Kevin Bourque, Selectmen's Rep.

New Business:

Fishing Derby and 2018 Budget

Discussion centered on whether the commission wanted to run the fishing derby next year. Two of the members that have run the derby for years were not interested in continuing for several reasons. Harry M. knew of an independent person who expressed interest in running the derby. Harry will try and contact to see if he still has an interest. The item is tabled for now.

Alternate position applicant

John (Jack) Curtin is interviewed for an alternate position on the conservation commission. His application is passed out. When asked he stated he would be available to go to the training provided by NHACC the first Saturday in November at the annual meeting. Joan added that we clean-up a section of Route 3A four times a year, attend zoning, or planning meeting as needed. Jack had no questions for the commission at this time. Tom L. makes a motion to recommend to the Selectmen the appointment of Jack Curtin as an alternate member. Harry. M. second the motion. All in favor of the motion.

Wetlands and Shoreland Permits Pennichuck Water Works

Joan reports the above permits have been filed and there are copies if anyone wants to look at them. Harry asks where they will be crossing the Merrimack River? Around the Talent Road area near the old Salmon rearing facility. These permits are to cross the river with a water pipe and also a new intake pipe.

Old Business:

River Access Sub-Committee

Jayson Brennan, 23 Aldrich St. representing the sub-committee, with other members of sub-committee in attendance.

Jayson gives a brief update of how and why the committee was formed, the site evaluation the committee went through. The committee viewed 7 sites, including one in Manchester by the "new" bridge. These sites were for carry in access. Some were eliminated due to steep slopes, or length from 3A.

They then did site walks on three sites in Litchfield. #1 is state owned (across from Library) steep slopes. #2 good site but privately owned by R. Jefferson #3 296 CB Hwy Town owned, slight grade, river conditions good, no trees need to be cut. Committee decided 296 CB Hwy was the favorable site. Committee then pursued what it would take to put river access on this site. After some deliberation and changes three conceptual plans were worked on:

#1 first going through the middle of the field because we saw an existing farm road,

#2 after meeting with the CONCOM and town engineer looked at it the access road was brought to the south side of the property reducing the length of the road from 800' to about 600'.

#3 scheme B: After meeting with the folks at McQuestion Farm (the farmer that is currently using the field) only last night, and hearing their concerns regarding theft and damage by ATV's a plan was devised to bring the parking area in only a couple of hundred feet off of Route 3A and then having people portage their canoes/kayaks the rest of the way to the river on a path. Thereby making less of an impact and keeping the parking more visible.

Nexts steps:

Meet with leaseholder, police and fire, costs/options trying to make this as low impact as possible, make final decision and develop plan report to committees.

John Bryant - Recreation Commission questions if we would create some type of wheel system to get boats to the river, he has seen it other places.

Tom L. we would leave that up to the Rec. Comm. if it gets to that point.

Margaret Berg 294 CB Hwy. (abutter) has concerns regarding the irrigation that the farmer uses on the river, how would you accommodate that? You can't see the access point from the road. Has the cost to cut into the bank at the state property been investigated?

Jayson B. responds: the pump is taking up a small part of the frontage. The cost to the town on this parcel will be minimal, we don't own the state property and the banks are 20 - 30'. At the Moores Falls town property it is 2500' to the river.

Margaret B. brought up the hearing in 2014 when the CONCOM held a hearing stating this land would be used for farmland in perpetuity.

Richard Husband: At that hearing there was a lot of discussion no one said we would never have river access there.

Steve Gannon Nesenkeag Dr. feels it would be better to have access road closer to the river for the police to patrol.

Richard Lascelles 236 CB Hwy. feels it is a travesty not to have public river access for the all and the 1800 people that answered the informal survey saying that was a top priority. Everyone is sensitive to the farmland and wants to maintain the farmland but the river is a public resource. The town bought this land for farmland and access to the river.

Joan McKibben: All along I have said I do not want to create an attractive nuisance. That is why I am so opposed to Moores Falls it won't be able to patrolled often enough. I think this addresses the problem with the parking up front.

Tom Levesque (regarding questions about fire access) feels they have adequate access at each end of town (Wilson Farms is one location)

Dianne Plansky 144 Talent Rd. Restates support for the farming community. If this access becomes a problem or it doesn't work we will take it out.

Jayson B. Two last points there really isn't another feasible option for river access. I want to make something extremely clear all meetings have been documented and sent out to all sub-committee members.

Target Shooting on town property

Joan reports there have been no recent complaints at Moores Falls or in the south end. The south end property is surrounded by state lands and the state has been contacted. The Selectmen thought any recommendations should be coming from the conservation commission. The CONCOM should think about Moores Falls because there is a lot of foot traffic there.

No rainfall report this month.

Other Business

September 15 Joan will attend a Herpetology workshop in Epsom, NH

September 13 a GIS workshop in Merrimack to learn NRPC live maps at the NRPC office.

Harry M. mentions there is a large turnover of properties in his neighborhood and wondered if we could do anything about reminding people about the conservation easement on the river.

Approval of June 8 Minutes

A motion is made by Tom L and seconded by Joan M. to approve the June 8 minutes. Motion passed all in favor.

A motion to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3(d) was made by Richard Husband seconded by Joan M. Roll call vote all in favor.

There were no votes taken in non-public session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes transcribed from video by J. McKibben