

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
November 21, 2023  
Final Minutes

Present: Alan Hardy, Chair, Jeff Abbe, Aurel Mihai, Norman LaPierre, Lyman Cousens, and Charlie Niebling, Town Forester.

Alternate Members Present: Lyman Cousens

Absent: Mark Kaplan, Betsey McNaughten, Henry Carrier, and Matt Burdick

Staff Present: Rose Fife, Recording Secretary, Kara Gallagher, Assistant, Planning and Community Development

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**Consent Agenda:**

- Open by Chair – 6:34 pm
- Roll call by Kara Gallagher
- Accountant's Report
- Review 10.17.23 Minutes

Lyman Cousens was made a voting member.

Ms. Gallagher noted that added to their packets this evening they will find a Balance Sheet, which is not normally included.

A **motion** to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Mihai, seconded by Mr. LaPierre, and passed by a unanimous vote.

**Old Business:**

• Henry Carrier submitted a letter of resignation dated 11.20.23. Chair Hardy read the letter into the record. A **motion** to accept the resignation, with regret, was made by Mr. LaPierre, seconded by Mr. Mihai, and passed by a unanimous vote.

• Swearing in of Carrier & Cousens-Burdick/Easler was recessed to the December meeting.

• Timber Cut Profits – Forester Charlie Niebling reported. Adam Mock is approximately 80% done with the harvest. He expects to finish the work next week and then focus on putting the landing to bed. Once completed, Forester Niebling will contact Eric Munroe to restore the road to its prior condition. There may be a small expense associated with the road repair. Mr. Abbe took a few photographs of the harvest as it was taking place. Forester Niebling reported they have grossed \$34,000 and there will be two more payments to follow. They will be close to their estimated revenue of \$65,000. They will reach their estimated harvest and the quality of the wood is good. He invited anyone on the Commission to come and walk the cut.

### **New Business:**

- Five Rivers Discussion – Jeffrey Evans, Director of Conservation and Richard Cook were present. Jeffrey Evans presented some slides regarding Regional Conservation Planning. This presentation was at the Five River's June meeting. They work in 17 towns around Concord. Their offices are in Concord. They own 77 conservation easements. They allow forestry, agriculture, and different types of recreation. They own 3 properties outright and have about 5,741 acres conserved. They would like to approach landowners, in the future, that have high conservation value. They also write grants to help offset costs. He shared their Vision statement. They drafted a conservation plan. They want to conserve natural resources. They want to conserve working landscapes. They want to try to improve the way they provide inclusion and access. They started the project February 2023 or March 2023 with a consulting firm. They reviewed resources in the surrounding towns. They did a Landscape-Scale Analysis to create a set of maps. They looked at wildlife habitat, water resources and climate resilience. Their themes are: (1) Natural Resources and Resiliency; (2) Working Landscape; and (3) Access and Inclusion/Recreation. He presented the maps for the Town of Boscawen and handed a copy out to Commission members. There is a version of this presentation on [www.5rct.org](http://www.5rct.org), under Our Work/Regional Conservation Plan.

Chair Hardy spoke with Mr. Abbe about Land Use Change Tax (LUCT). Right now, the Commission receives 100% and has not been challenged since around 2000. It is now being reviewed. Mr. Abbe would be happy to present it to Town Meeting. Mr. Mihai thought that Mr. Evans presented the material well and it would be beneficial. Mr. Hardy thought this was a good time for this presentation.

Richard Cook spoke. He handed out maps to the Commission. They are in the very early stages of an exciting project working with a local Boscawen family. When finalized Five River's Trust will have over 1,000 acres in a Conservation Easement. Once this easement is complete, they will have a more solid budget and will come back to the Commission to seek financial support. Mr. Cook will be the volunteer manager. Forester Niebling asked when Five River's would be looking for financial support: during the project or at closing. He asked if they had a rough budget. Mr. Cook estimated more than \$100,000. They are looking for funding in different places. They will keep the Commission apprised as they move forward.

Richard Cook asked about Walker Pond. Mr. Abbe met with the surveyor and will have more to report in a week or so.

Town Forest Update done by Mr. Abbe. He has been contacted by Matt St. Onge with some ideas on how to make the Farmstead better. He has done some clipping of bittersweet on the backside of the barn, and he requested that he be able to get a fire permit or permission from the Fire Department to do some burning when there is snow on the ground. Chair Hardy stated that the Commission/Town must be a part of any project taking place in the Forest. A **motion** to allow burning brush piles in the winter was made by Mr. LaPierre, seconded by Mr. Cousens, and passed by a unanimous vote. Mr. Hardy asked to have Matt St. Onge added to the December agenda and to also place the Town Forest on the agenda monthly as well. Mr. Abbe reported on the snowmobile trail by the Hardy bypass. The edges were cleaned up. They have seeded the disturbed ground. He has moved signs at the end of the Blue Ridge Trail to be more visible.

He also reported that the Gilmore property and Jones property were normally monitored in November. Forester Niebling reported that Gilmore's property is officially a Certified Tree Farm.

Town Report is something that Mr. Abbe has historically written, and he would prefer someone else to take it over. Chair Hardy would like to propose that 3 or 4 of the Commissioners work on it. He suggested himself, Mr. Mihai, Mr. Abbe, and Forester Niebling work on it together.

Chair Hardy asked to have the Town Forest cut proceeds be placed on the December Agenda for discussion.

Further discussion regarding designating Walker Pond as a Town Forest.

Mr. Mihai noted that there is a Walker Pond Facebook page. He asked if the Commission would support putting a reminder on that page to for people to come out to Town Meeting to support Walker Pond.

A **motion** to adjourn at 8:20 pm was made by Mr. LaPierre, seconded by Mr. Cousens, and passed by a unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting:** December 19th, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*