

Wilton Conservation Commission

P.O. Box 83, Wilton Town Hall, Wilton, NH 03086

<http://www.ci.wilton.nh.us/>

MEETING MONDAY July 13, 2015 7:00 PM DRAFT MINUTES APPROVED 8/10/15

Wilton Conservation Commission held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 13, 2015, at the Town Hall Courtroom. Present were Commissioner/Chairman Bart Hunter, Jeff Stone, Joe Broyles, Bill Mahar, Alan Preston, Spencer Brookes; Clerk Joanna K. Eckstrom; visitor - Sheila Barnett. The following business was conducted:

1. **Call to order** – Chairman Hunter called meeting to order at 7PM. A quorum is present; he had received Laurence Coronis' letter of resignation (to be discussed later in evening).

Sheila Barnett was invited to speak. Ms. Barnett, a relative of Maurice Guay, has owned a home at 2 Jowders Drive (Whiting Hill Road) for more than 30 years. The front of the house and drive faces an old orchard on Carnival Hill. A few years ago, the Conservation Commission / Town cut several apple trees (on town property) and since then, sometimes torrential water (from snow melt and rain) runs off the hill and across Whiting Hill Road and onto Ms. Barnett's property. The run off has resulted in damage to the front of the house as well as bringing water and sand into her basement where it damaged heating equipment and other items. She said when Charles McGettigan was Road Agent, he always made sure that the berm just below the treeline was in place and that water coming off the hill was directed into the ditch. Also, farm equipment (haying machines) compact the berm and the ditch is useless. The problem is exacerbated every time there's rain and she is very concerned about protecting her house. Ms. Barnett has contacted Steve Elliott, Highway Department about the issue – on this part of Whiting Hill Road, there is a question of whether it's town or state's responsibility to maintain. Ms Barnett hopes the Conservation Commission will work with other town departments to remedy the problem. Bart and Alan will look into this.

2. **Old Business:**

Minutes June 8, 2015 – Ms Eckstrom said that she had received an e-mail from Mr Stone in which he clarified the minutes with regard to the pipeline path (per the NRPC maps) and a few other minor items. The maps were not available tonight however, on a motion by Mr Mahar, seconded by Mr. Brookes, the June 8th minutes including Jeff's e-mail with amendments / clarifications, were unanimously approved.

Ms Eckstrom asked that when she e-mails the minutes that commissioners 'Reply All' with any suggested changes and simply to acknowledge receipt of the minutes.

Budget & Expenditures – Commission has received an invoice from NH Association of Conservation Commissioners (NHACC) which states that payment of annual dues (2015) is still outstanding. It was confirmed by a phone call that the bill has been paid and Wilton Conservation Commission is in good-standing. Jeff will follow up with 'Emily' so that this can be confirmed in writing – i.e check number, date of payment, etc.

History - in March, commission voted and Mr Stone signed, authorization to pay NHACC 2015 dues. At a subsequent meeting, another invoice was given to Mr Stone; Mr Brookes thought it was already paid; Mr Stone was asked to follow up. On June 11, he spoke to Emily at NHACC who confirmed that they had received our dues payment in March and we were up to date with them. Mr Stone will confirm this again in writing.

The Commission received a check for \$800 from LCHIP for monitoring activities which the commission does on an annual basis. Areas that are monitored include the Frog Pond (and access points to it). Access points are on Maple Street near the Gabel property and at 80 Maple Street, Donna Crane's property.

Per Mr Broyles, a steel surveyor's 'pin' was removed when a snowmobile road (accessed from Abbot Hill Road) was put in. The 'pin' needs to be replaced and also culverts and gates need to be installed at various properties.

Some money has already been appropriated for these. On a motion by Mr Preston, seconded by Mr Mahar, \$100 from the LCHIP money is to be paid to Chris Carter to 'reimburse' him for mowing access points at Frog Pond. (An added benefit of mowing is that low grass keeps ticks at bay.) Unanimous.

49 On a motion by Mr Preston, seconded by Mr Stone, commissioners unanimously agreed that the \$700 remaining
50 from the LCHIP money be put toward the 80 Maple Street Right of Way.

51 **3. Ongoing Business:**

52 **Frog Pond** – Mr Stone shared his report via e-mail earlier in the month. Additionally with regard to the Gabel
53 property, there are no cars or debris blocking that ROW. Although there have been some delays in the Gabel’s
54 clean up of the property and ROW, Mr Stone and the Selectmen are satisfied with the progress made.

55 There seems to be no more beaver activity at Frog Pond. Also, seepage (at southern most edge) from the area
56 is noticeable but light. Mr Preston noted that the area has been hayed.

57 **ZBA:** meeting on 7/14 – to consider using 343 Forest Rd for crematorium. Mr Hunter will attend.

58 **Planning Board:** any input from WCC re: 343 Forest Rd. or other considerations.

59 **Forest Management and Timber Intents** per Mr Mahar, nothing new since last month

60 **Wildlife Sightings:**

61 Mr Mahar – bear in his front yard – with photo. Also turkeys. Mr Broyles – wood turtle crossing road.

62 **Update on Conservation Plan**— once all properties have been identified a work session will be scheduled. Mr
63 Preston asked about any easements on Hearthstone. Mr Brookes is on board – there are no formal easements
64 however, as this is a community land trust, there is a ‘moral intent’ that land is protected.

65 **Follow up on Dog Waste letter** Mr Stone did meet with Selectmen – there is State ordinance but unless police
66 sit and watch every dog being walked on town streets, law isn’t easily enforced. Selectmen agreed that more bag
67 and bucket stations could be placed. Mr Broyles said we need to change people’s culture / attitudes.

68 **SORLAC** per Misters Brookes and Mahar said most recent discussion is about pipeline but nothing specific.

69 **4. New Business & miscellaneous:**

70 **Replacement for Laurence Coronis (resigned)** The resignation will be announced; ideal candidate is someone
71 from an area of town not currently represented; female. Candidates should attend a meeting or two before
72 appointment. Per RSA 36A3, no less than three and no more than seven members on the commission.

73 **July 15 webinar (e-mail shared from Spencer)** these can be very interesting. Commissioners should consider
74 signing in to this and opportunities presented by way of the ‘Stewardship Network’.

75 **Next Meeting: Monday, August 10, 2015**

76 There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

77 Respectfully,

78 Joanna K Eckstrom, Clerk