

Conservation Commission Meeting 12/14/21

In attendance: Chris Fithian (via phone), Mike Morin, Steve Frackleton, Jesse Jameson, Colleen Ryan

- *Called to order at 6:05 pm/ Called to close 7:10 pm*

Review of Town Owner List

- We need to define a goal to get a clear picture of what is town land and start visiting locations
- Colleen has access to some software that could help us create a digital inventory. She needs to look for parcel layer in NH Granite System
- Need to review what is under our purview and what is not and then create a list of needs/actions for various properties

Review of Select Board Meeting

- CC met at the 12/1/21 Select Board meeting to inquire about the possible existence of a town conservation fund based on a line item in question. Whether it is or not, we would like to pursue having a Conservation Fund for the town and propose funding methods from land use change taxes, donations, budget rollover, etc. Overall idea was positively received, and we are waiting on a response from the Select Board regarding the line item in question before developing warrant articles.

Morell Community Complex Update

- Mike suggests getting Annette Libby/Bartlett Rec to come to a CC meeting soon to get an update on where plans are at with phase 2 of the Morell property
- Group questions include process that needs to be followed for land clearing and obtaining a status update from DES on the process, as well as water management on the property from water source across the train tracks
- Question whether there is a master plan for the property. Chris believes there is in our information Drive.

Old Town Dump

- Briefly reviewed history with Colleen. Old dump is eroding into the river. Got a lot of attention a few years ago but hasn't been discussed as much recently.
- Mike thinks it is within our purview to at least bring up the issue and ask for an update on whether anything is happening on this, specifically the status/result of the proposed consultant to evaluate the site

Social Media Page

- As a follow up from the previous meeting, Jesse did some preliminary research to see whether other Conservation Commissions in NH maintain a CC Facebook page accessible to the public. Several were identified and Jesse briefly interviewed the page manager for both the Alexandria and New Mark commission. Preliminary feedback suggests that a page could be a simple way to share educational material/events with the community.
- Next steps include more research with a starting point of Carroll County Conservation District to see what other CCs in our district are doing, determining page management (volunteered by Jesse with support from Colleen) and how to handle inquiries (automatic reply explaining who to contact in town for certain inquiries that are not CC related), and gaining support for the idea from the Select Board

Other Business

- Found new cabinet with more CC related documents.
- Chris suggested planning a workday outside of the normal meeting to start organizing all the files, with the intent of scanning and digitizing the records