

Town of Bartlett  
Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday February 17, 2021  
Meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Chairman Chris Fithian, Mike Morin, Jesse Jameson, Selectman Vicki Garland, Rich Brereton of FB Environmental Associates, Executive Director of Saco Headwaters Alliance Mark Dindorf, President of Saco Headwaters Alliance Tom Gross

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

Meeting is opened with presentation by Saco Headwaters Alliance, led by Rich Brereton and Mark Dindorf.

Selectman Garland comments that it was a spectacular presentation and that last March Bartlett voted on a hydrologic study, but isn't sure how many people are aware of that study and the results. Garland expresses that a lot of boards don't have people running for them and she can't get signatures she needs to support certain projects and permits. Says sometimes Selectman will deny a permit but then the ZBA will allow it. She wants more people to realize that we can support our development as a town but also still protect our rivers.

Tom Gross responds and emphasizes that they want to find a common ground with those focused on economics and business and states ultimately we are all working towards the same goal. If we want a vibrant tourism economy in the future, we have to protect our natural resources and find a common ground. Investments in repairs and damages are costly and preventive works save money in the long run.

Chairman Fithian thanks everyone for their involvement and participation. Wants to work to find common language. Acknowledges appreciation that Vicki is present from the Selectmen. Wants to work with SHA on the proposed checklist/survey.

Mike Morin asks for more information about previous statement Rich made in the presentation about surrounding communities that have groundwater protection ordinances in place.

Rich Brereton says the ordinances restrict the kind of uses that can be present in a groundwater protection district. Eliminates 7 most risky activities and sites that can be moved elsewhere. First town in area to enact was Madison in the late 90s and Harts Location in 2019. DES has a model groundwater protection ordinance. Makes state law enforceable at a local level. Albany and Jackson are in similar stages of passing an ordinance.

Grossman adds that If all the towns sitting on the same aquifer work to protect it, we protect all of us, but if one town doesn't than we are putting other towns at risk as well.

Mark Dindorf has been having internet problems and apologizes. Says the groundwater protection ordinance gives us the ability to have local control (education, enforcement, etc). Gives us a way to communicate with businesses in our town to educate and teach best practices to prevent contamination

of the water. Model protection ordinance can only be strengthened. Gives town the option to work with businesses that sit over the aquifer. Without the ordinance the laws are already in place, but we don't have a means to educate and enforce.

Brereton states that he will send follow-up materials to Chris.

Presentation concludes and Garland, Brereton, Dindorf, and Gross log off meeting.

Morin has an update from William Abbott and the Dundee Forest. They want to seek municipal funding after they have created an advisory group and community outreach/listening sessions. Also want to identify specific funding needs first. Morin says he will forward the email, but 2022 is when they would likely push for funds to support Dundee Forest. Morin says he really wants to hit the ground and push communication about projects like these to the community to impress on people the importance of showing up to town meeting in 2022.

There being no further business meeting is adjourned at 8:30 pm.