

Conservation Commission Meeting, August 22, 2018

Members Present: Tim Copeland, Ana Egana, Pat Elwell, Bob Keating, Bill Kenny, Allison Knab, Bill McCarthy, Dan McAuliffe, Bob O'Sullivan

Non-members Present: Brian Copeland, Paul Deschaine

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Mail:

- SELT sent a report of its Zarnowski property monitoring; they did not see anything that would raise concerns with regard to the easement.
- We received a copy of the Dredge and Fill application for 15 Union Road, which Bill M. signed this week.

Social Media

- The BOS raised concern about a Commission Facebook post of a news update regarding relaxing carbon limits on power plants; the post included a comment. The note was made that posts should not be editorialized. Bob O. said he believed if the CC had voted on a specific statement to make, it would not have been an issue. The CC agreed to take down the commentary and felt it had a better understanding of town policy with regard to social media.

Town Clean Up

- The Commission discussed doing clean-up day in the fall, but is concerned about poison ivy.
- Ideas for relaunching it in the spring: weeklong event, contests through the school, changing it to May, holding an ice cream party after.
- A date of May 18th was set for the clean up

Recycling

- Colin is looking into options for 2019 for automated curbside pickup. The automated service reduces the number of stops and trucks and keeps trash from blowing away, as well as bins being thrown or damaged.
- He is applying for a grant from Recycling Partnership that would provide \$7/house toward the bins and \$1/house for education. The bins are approximately \$50-\$60 each. The grant is due September 21st. He would like letters of support from the Commission.
- Tim motioned, Allison seconded a motion to provide letters of support to the BOS and the Recycling Partnership. The motion passed unanimously.

Bartlett-Cushman House

David Canada emailed saying the Heritage Commission is opposed to any plan to subdivide the property. The HC is rescinding its letter of support for the plan. Bob O. noted that the state mandated what the subdivision would have to look like. Tate & Foss, the listing agent, has estimated that renovating the property would cost approximately \$650,000. Future options still include: trying to sell the house as-is, demolishing the house, selling half the lot, recombining the lot. Pat stated that it should be a town decision.

Municipal Updates

- Stumps are still being removed from the Stratham Hill Park ball fields
- There will be a hearing on a 79E application for the Old Town Hall (tax credits for improvements being made on the property)
- A public hearing regarding the Smyk house should be held soon
- The Town Administrator job has been posted
- Interviews are being held for the CEO/building inspector

Other

- A second tour of the transfer station was held by the RCCD regarding the invasive species grant, with Colin Lavery in attendance. The RCCD plans to spray in the fall and apply for permit to spray near wetlands for Japanese knotweed.
- Bill had emailed Tavis Austin about a June 13th Commission meeting where the issue of Section 11 and wetland buffers came up. Colin did not recall the discussion and believed that the conversation had been about a specific property (15-17 Union Road). Allison planned to email him about it as she had been at the meeting and understand it to be a discussion of changing town regulations.

Tim motioned to adjourn at 8:18; Pat seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab, Secretary