

## **Stratham Conservation Commission**

### **Public Meeting Minutes**

1/23/19

Present: Allison Knab, Bob Keating, Pat Elwell, Bill McCarthy, Ana Egana, Bill Kenny, Dan McAuliffe

Also: members of Park Association

### Public Session

Called to order 7:14

Prior to the CC meeting, Bill M, Ana and Pat participated in a joint meeting of the Park Association and the Rec Department. At that meeting, two concerns of particular interest to the CC were raised: beavers doing damage to large trees and the potential for dying trees to create hazards in the park and how to handle signage because an excessive number of nails are being put into trees and are not being removed.

Next joint meeting date for PA, Rec, and CC will be March 27, 6:30 pm

### New Business

Management of lands - discussion about future practices on how to handle with the various committees that have involvement. The CC hopes to increase communications with Park Association and Rec Association/Rec Dept so that new trail development is discussed before being done. The Rec Dept. is in charge of maintenance and responds to seasonal changes as necessary, sometimes including volunteer efforts.

Kerrie Vivathana gave a report about Skatepark. Engineers felt soils at Stevens park were more appropriate for the needs of development. They also felt that the Skate park at SHP would take away from "natural" look of SHP, and feedback from community was that Stevens was the preferred location. The Park Assoc accepted committee report without taking action/vote. Going to BOS on Jan 28. CC had previously voted that we would not support the Skate park being at SHP. Pat moved, Dan seconded, letter of support for location at Stevens to go to BOS. Motion passed.

Pam Hollasch from PCAC, the committee currently looking at connectivity of areas without using roads, presented an option to get around roads to get to Stevens Park that would include going through the Sally Sanderson easement. It is unclear if the property is still farmed for hay, but the CC suggested that the PCAC define exactly what the use would be, how trail would be used, how many, how maintain, etc. and talk to Sally. Bob would be willing to be part of the discussion with her.

Seth has a few other properties with pedestrian access that he has been looking at through PCAC as they draft the safe routes to school project. Pat raised the issue of hunting on some of these parcels that do allow hunting and may conflict with pedestrian and biking usage. Seth noted that this would definitely be an educational component as new trails are developed.

## Minutes

Bob moved, Ana seconded, approval of January 9, 2019 public and non-public minutes as written. Motion passed.

## Mailbox

The CC received a copy of the 2018-9 NH Planning and Land Use regulation book.

Seth provided a copy of the Park and Rec Dept summary and spoke about some of the projects he has coming up.

No representative from the town was available for Municipal or Planning updates.

Ana moved, Dan seconded, going into non-public session to discussion land acquisition. Motion passed.

At 8:15 Ana moved, Dan Seconded, closing the non-public session and sealing the minutes. Motion passed.

Pat provided Bill with notes from previous meeting regarding bright line test and a list of previous ARM fund projects.

Ana moved, Pat seconded, closing meeting at 8:28.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 13, 7:00pm at the Stratham Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Elwell