



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

Tel. (603) 899-5181 Fax (603) 899-2101 TDD 1-800-735-2964

MINUTES for Meeting on January 13, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by David Drouin

Members in attendance:

Commissioners: David Drouin, Al Lefebvre, Richard Mellor, Rob Rubendall, Fred Rogers

Alternates: Del Friedman, Fred Dodge

Other Attendees: Richard Synnott

OFFICIAL NOTICES

- PB Application for Major Subdivision, Map 2 Lot 46-1-1, Dale Farm Rd & Knight Lane, GRAZ Engineering for Ashoryn LLC.
 - Representation from GRAZ Engineering presented updated PB application. The application previously came before the commission with PURD design, more wetlands were flagged in redesign
 - Presentation of new road design that has no bordering wetlands design and drainage structure. Reconfiguration of runoff. Moving roadway up also created one extra lot, making 15 lot total with up to 4 bedrooms each.
 - The delineation of wetland areas were pointed out and noted that some grading in the buffer
 - Commission noted improvement over previous plans and saw no reason to deny progress of the application. GRAZ will next have to go before Planning Board.
 - D. Drouin will send note to Planning Board chair of RCC's approval.

OLD BUSINESS

- Recreation Update
 - Mellor noted that the new slide at Tetreault Park was installed and was in good condition even after snowfall and already has seen great public feedback online.
 - Rubendall noted large amount of foot traffic at Tetreault Park.
 - Richard Synnott of the Rindge Recreation Committee had emailed Rubendall with request for acreage of the playscape for future potential grants.
 - Synnott noted that he brought these questions to Dan Bemis re. acreage for possible Bryne Foundation grant. supporting Recreation Department. First step in this grant is Letter of Intent (LOI) , idea is that it that it may be a matching grant. He is looking to have local charitable foundations commit to smaller grants and ask Bryne for a match.
 - Synnott also planning to submit LOI for KFC Foundation grant (grant cycle ends 1/31).
- January 4, POOR Meat Raffle update – Drouin
 - 10 volunteers at raffle, good social event
- Natural Resources Mapping – Lefebvre
 - Lefebvre noted it ties to non-public session. Tabled.
- Conservationist of the Year update – Lefebvre
 - Lefebvre would like approval to spend up to \$300 on plaques
 - Two plaques – one running nomination award for town hall and one recipient
 - Recipient plaque – \$75
 - Town hall plaque - \$200 +annual engraving

- Rubendall moves to approve up to \$300 for conservationist of the year award from the conservation fund, seconded by Friedman. Commission voted, all in favor. The motion passed.
 - Lefebvre noted that purpose of the award is/was to promote conservation and conservation efforts, to popularize efforts. He added that he would like it to coincide with newspaper press release for public announcement, with the goal of maximum publicity surrounding the announcement. Current plan is to have winner announced at the town deliberative session.
 - Lefebvre suggested that announcement of winner and presentation it should be drafted and run to the press the week prior, with notice that it will be awarded at the town deliberative session with date and time.
 - Drouin will reach out to town moderator to confirm date.
 - Lefebvre wrote a draft press release, will be reviewed by Friedman.
 - Mellor suggested that next year award possibly be announced at 2025 tree lighting
- Conservation Land & Related
 - Drouin will have full wetlands report by 1/23
 - Total for the project was roughly \$10,000, split into three billings.
 - First paid, second and third outstanding
 - Drouin sought Commission approval for second payment
 - Mellor moved to approve second payment of \$3312.50, seconded by Lefebvre. Commission voted with all in favor, motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Terms of Office – Lefebvre
 - Lefebvre reviewed commission member listing and term lengths, asked which members plan to reapply. Noted that some dates and terms online are incorrect and will be fixed.
 - Mellor noted intent to submit his renewal to new selectmen, was advised to do so after March election.
 - Friedman asked when listing online will be updated, which will be likely after new website is published
 - Drouin informed commission will need to discuss possibility of meeting being live streamed and/or recorded in future meetings, save for later discussion.
- Goals/plans/strategic planning for 2025 – Drouin
 - Traditionally, year-end review included short, medium, and long-term goals. This past year, most project have included maintenance and holding status.
 - No current goals to purchase land
 - Strategic plan to include leadership and structure of commission in coming years.
 - How to get more people involved both in Conservation Corps and in Commission
 - Dodge noted that FPU students wanted to be involved, but they have limited engagement based on enrollment and graduation. Also suggested Scouts and asked if they would be a viable group for volunteering.
 - Mellor stated that maintenance cannot be sustained by commission alone, that Conservation Corps must lead maintenance with commission supporting. Discussion on how best to motivate the community to get involved with maintenance in area.
 - Synnott noted that recognition in form of swag is a powerful motivator- tshirts and hats for volunteer service, small gift cards or passes. Recognizing and rewarding the people involved will engage the younger generation.

Account Approvals & Updates

- Reimbursement from Merrimack Conservation Partnership (signs at Mattabeseck) \$2147.79
 - Commission voted to accept the reimbursement from Merrimack Conservation Partnership in the amount of \$2,147.79, all in favor.
- Donations from Mary McPhie (\$1000) and Charles and Dee Sampson (\$2000)
 - Commission voted to accept the donations from Mary McPhie (\$1000) and Charles and Dee Sampson (\$2000), all in favor.
- \$400 donation from POOR from Meat raffle of January 4 volunteering



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- Commission voted to accept the \$400 donation from POOR from the January 4 volunteering, all in favor.

Upcoming Events

- Feb 8 – Moonlight Walk at Tetreault Park (6:30 pm)
 - Will be led by Drouin.
 - Dickler wrote press release, shared with RCC
 - Walk will be cancelled by 4:30pm in case of poor weather
- April 26 - Earth Day Event at Cathedral of the Pines
- Drouin presented nomination that Lefebvre be the Commission's representative to CNBRLAC. Commission agrees.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES for October 24 and December 9, 2024)

- Lefebvre moved to approve the minutes of October 24, seconded by Mellor. Commission voted with Lefebvre, Drouin, Mellor and Rogers in favor, Friedman, Dodge, Rubendall abstained motion passes.
 - R. Rubendall noted name error in two places, error corrected
- Lefebvre moved to approve the minutes of December 9, seconded by Rubendall. Commission voted with Rogers, Mellor, Drouin, Lefebvre, and Rubendall in favor, Friedman, Rogers abstains. motion passes.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION per RSA 91-A:3 – Ild

Motion to Adjourn

- Lefebvre moved to adjourn the regular meeting and go to non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 Ild, seconded by Rogers. Commission voted with all in favor, motion passed. :
- Non-Public Session of the Meeting Adjourned at 8:07

Mellor motioned to seal the Non-public Minutes. Rogers seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

NEXT MEETING: January 23, 2025

Schedule of 2025 Meetings: January 23, February 10 & 27, March 10 & 27, April 14 & 24, May 12 & 22, June 9 & 26, July 14 & 24, August 11 & 28, Sept. 8 & 25, Oct. 13 & 23, Nov. 10, Dec. 8.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes recoded by Amanda Nardini