

**Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**  
**Oct. 7, 2019**  
**5:30 PM, Town Office**

**Members present:** Jeff Sires, Brian Byrnes, Tom Seidel, Pam Smillie, Bill Terry, Mike Dufilho

**Members of public:** William Abbott, USVLT and JT Horn, Trust for Public Lands

Susan Ross-Parent took minutes. Hank Benesh filmed.

**Review Minutes** - please add members present at 9.9.19 meeting: Tom Seidel, Brian Byrne, Ken Kimball, Jeff Sires, Mike Dufilho, Pam Smillie, Bill Terry

Minutes approved.

**New Business:** Community Forest presentation by William Abbott and JT Horn

Objective to give sketch of project, next steps for public outreach and support letter for Forestry outreach grant. William gave overview of land available in Jxn and Bartlett. Public outreach starting soon now that purchase is settled with the heirs. Forest Legacy Grant is involved - written by JT with Trust for Public Land. This property is unique because the part of the property will be in easement held by the state of NH, other portions owned by USVLT. Managed by USVLT. Two-town forest, so management will use an advisory committee to involve all stakeholders. A model in the local area: Pine Hills project in Conway. Quick forest survey showed timber, hiking trail possibilities, protected species...

JT explained the work of TPL: working with larger and complicated property easements. Heirs to Mac Beal's land would like to honor their father's work and so working with TPL. Long process (2 years) ahead with public information, grant application, fundraising for balance of cost, etc. Community benefit: new trails, sustainable forest harvesting, etc. Pine Hills project with USVLT is a good model for a similar project.

More on the grant: public access, forest management plan written by a forester and approved by the state. Will not result in a loss of tax base. Timber revenue would pay timber tax.

Same process as Randolph, Errol, Milan, Freedom, Meredith town forests, a federal grant matching state, local, funding and grants.

The family wanted the land to go to conservation but couldn't donate. They offered the project to several local conservation groups. Trust for Public Lands and USVLT were the groups chosen by the heirs to buy and manage the land.

For more: see documents from USVLT and TPL available at town offices.

Question from USVLT: how to involve the community in the forest plan? Are there places in these parcels that could be used for building affordable housing? What uses would the community like to see?

Question for USVLT/TPL:

1. Where exactly could there be affordable housing? Ans: For now, not the best areas for housing - seasonal use of Dundee Rd, road frontage to areas of access beyond. Community input could help determine how important this is to the community.

2. The proposed forest is in many parcels - how does that affect management? Are there plans to connect the blocks of "Town Forest?" - Ans. Currently working on these parcels. In the future maybe connections can be made. Also - community input for the uses is key. Different parcels may have different uses - or not.
3. Question re: parking: How does this figure in to the impact on the Dundee Rd area and congestion on Dundee Rd. Ans. Heirs have considered this and have worked with TPL and USVLT with parking in mind.
4. Are there prohibited activities: The grant requires that the property be open to hunting, hiking, fishing and working timber operation. Community decides uses beyond those. Prohibited activities: mining, development, timber extraction not in compliance with management plan. Motorized use depends on discretion of land owner (USVLT) These parcels do not directly connect to other motorized trails use.
5. Does affordable housing or community building development need to be in the initial grant application? Ans: it cannot be in the core of the property. Community input here is very important while honoring the heirs wishes for conservation. JT and William would be happy to talk to Jackson Affordable Housing Committee.
6. Will this go forward without Bartlett? Ans: not an issue, just met with Bartlett select board and they support it.

JT cautions: Raising money still needs to happen. This is an opportunity not a fait accompli. Community engagement in uses, fund raising, and other committees are key to this project.

JT and William are asking CC for endorsement with sign letter of support for grant application.

Motion made for CC chair to send a letter endorsing the Community Forest Project.

Vote:all in favor.

### **Other business**

Motion to pay dues for NH Association of Conservation Commissions. \$250 - approved

Motion regarding paying for mowing up to \$1600 at Prospect Farm if required - approved

**Prospect Farm** - see above

**Jackson Falls** - chips still to spread.

**Gray's Inn**

**Conservation Easements** - see new business

**Wetlands**

JXC + Water Precinct

**Public Comment/New Business** - see above

**6:15 Adjourned.**

As always, the public is encouraged to attend and share their vision for the use of Jackson town properties and other conservation priorities. Our meetings are typically at 5:30 PM at the town office building on the first Monday of each month.