

Conservation Commission
Feb. 6, 2017
5:30 PM Town Office
MINUTES
DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members present: Dave Matesky, Tom Seidel, Brian Byrne, Pam Smillie
Hank Benesh filmed, Susan Ross-Parent took notes

Review minutes:

Spelling corrections: Change to Holcombe from Holcolm

PAGE 2: "JSTF distributed an incorrect map" to be clear: JSTF was provided an incorrect map that they distributed.

Minutes accepted as changed.

Public Comment - no public

Wetlands permit updates - CC asked to sign (again) a form for the culvert area from bottom of Switchback Rd into the Triangle

New business

Brian - Received an email from a resident asking us to look into a bike trail on town property. A *pump track* with some built features, contours, etc. "Pump" because the contours create the momentum with a minimum of pedaling.

Discussion around where it put it, upkeep, cost, legal issues and connecting to other trails.

Pam: Where would we do it? On town property?

Discussion of another pump track in the area and what works: aesthetically pleasing, tucked away, with natural features maintained.

Tom: so we'll continue to look at the idea with more information.

Pam: Leslie Shoemaker asked to circulate something that Lori Gabriel gave her to get warrant article to exempt solar use from taxes. Pam passes info around, from the NH Office of Energy and Planning, **Renewable Energy Incentives**

Dave - Is it an RSA ?

Pam: Yes, so it's up to the town.

Tom: Is it policy to tax solar arrays?

Pam explains: Yes, that the policy in other towns allows for exemption so that homes won't go up in assessment value for solar, wood boiler, wind turbines that are seen from outside.

Tom: She's asking us to support it?

Discussion of various points of the RSA.

Tom: Does the town have plans for solar, wind and woodboilers?

Dave: 35 ft max restriction for height.

Mike: *Reading thru the handouts*: Looks like \$5000 max off the evaluation of the house.

Pam: It will make the addition of a renewal energy system tax neutral. When they add a renewable energy system, the assessed value of their property goes up. In order not to penalize homeowners for adding renewable energy systems, the value of the renewable

energy system would not be taxed. The property assessment would be the assessed value of the property minus the value of the new system. This stimulates the alternate energy economy, helps with carbon footprint.

Discussion regarding who will explain this at town meeting, that some towns have been doing this since the 70s, if there is tax opportunity lost, and that the handout is noted as updated in 2003.

Tom: CC seems generally accepting. Work it out for next month. Need to check with Planning Board.

Pam: If the Planning Board encourages renewable energy in the Master Plan then this exemption supports that.

Falls - fencing estimate

Brian met with a contractor and walked the property - can't give estimate until it's bare (snow-free) ground. He's sent a letter explaining. Another contractor replied with working quote of \$10,000 and Brian responded that the town was ready to take formal quotes. A third contractor is waiting for bare ground but may sub out the fencing to a Conway company.

Tom: Do we need to pick a landscaper and should we pick with no real estimate? Julie asked that we pick a landscaper before the town meeting so that they can vote to get it from the trust. \$10,000. Trust fund committee seemed positive.

Brian: An initial \$10,000 estimate went to Trust Fund Trustees and they thought it was ok?

Dave: They checked it against the will and seem to think it fits. (Cemeteries, by the way, have the biggest trust funds.)

Discussion concerning whether we need to pick contractor before town meeting if we're requesting \$10,000 as the working estimate.

Dave: We can go with our own estimates and apply to the trust and present our receipts/invoices and if it's less it's ok. Goes over the process of getting contractors paid with trust funds.

Dave suggests sending an RFQ (request for quote) and pick who gets back.

Discussion continues that the contractors need bare ground to give best estimate.

Brian - The project is already in sections, so if it looks more expensive we can do a section later

Tom: Bridge work 2018-19, so maybe not do that section.

Brian: Will let contractors know what was decided in this meeting and then we can pick in March.

Tom: Margaret's description of how to get to Falls for Chamber - everyone saw it. Send comments to Margaret.

Shrubs to order? Pick out new ones? Go with same list as last year?

Mike: Motion to buy same # and type of seedlings as last year from NH State Nursery. Motion carried.

Pam: How about some interesting sedges and grasses?

Mike: Has anyone seen a healthy blue spruce here in NE?

Pam: Yes!

Prospect Farm

Tom: Signs for Prospect Farm are being made. George Brown of AMC is donating time to make signs for us and Randolph Mtn Club. Will be free if he can continue to use scrap wood.

Other signs for Prospect Farm with descriptions Margaret wrote - will order from same company as the Falls signs. Send comments to Margaret.

Greys Inn - Pump track - see above.

Dave moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

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