

PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CC)
Approved Minutes of February 16, 2015 Meeting

Present: Carol Bertsimas, Vice-Chair; Steve Fowler; Ammy Heiser, Chair and Brian Mrazik.

Not Present: David Baril; Vincent Greco, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Representative; Kevin Krebs, Planning Board (PB) Representative; and Ayn Whytemare, Secretary.

Others Present: Ronald Klemarczyk, Licensed Forester

1. **Call to Order** – Ammy called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
2. **Natural Resources Inventory** – Ammy displayed the map of wetlands prepared by Rick Van de Poll. Rick requested feedback on the names he proposed for the major wetlands. His proposed names related to nearby geographic features, which helps in locating them. The CC discussed other possibilities such as using the property owner's name or trying to see if town historians knew of names that had been used historically. No alternative approaches were chosen.

Action Item: Brian stated that he is reviewing the draft wetland evaluation criteria for identifying "Designated Wetlands" prepared by Rick. He will send his comments to the CC and Rick for discussion.

3. Conservation Lands

- a. **Ames Brook** – Steve contacted Jim Boisvert regarding the placement of rocks to border the parking area. It was decided to wait until spring so that the parking area could be better identified.
- b. **Beacon Hill** – Ammy put in a call to Nik Coates regarding the legal feasibility of selling the potential house lot on Beacon Hill road. Purchase of the area with conservation funds may preclude subdivision and resale of the lot. Ammy also inquired about legal requirement to monitor all conservation lands on an annual basis. She has not yet heard back from Nik.

Ammy noted that a publication entitled "NH Municipal Conservation Guidebook", published by the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, provides a wealth of information on administration of conservation lands. This document implies that annual monitoring is required.

4. **Range Roads Closure** – A question arose regarding a proposed logging operation on 7th Range Road relative to the ordinance imposing use-restriction from February 15 – May 31. The ordinance allows the Director of Public works to permit such activity based on road conditions and to require the posting of a bond, if necessary, to cover the costs of road repair. Jim Boisvert has approved access for this operation, conditional upon the road surfaces remaining frozen.

- 5. Town Forest Report** – Ron Klemarczyk, a licensed forester who had previously worked with the CC to prepare forest management plans, conducted a no-cost reconnaissance on a number of parcels to advise us on what silvicultural actions may be required in the near future. Ron submitted a report (attached) and attended the meeting to present his findings. His report noted several possible management activities that could be undertaken on these properties, but only the Butterfield parcel had an urgent need for action.

Ron identified, and confirmed with State forestry officials, that the 4.5 acre red pine plantation on Butterfield has been infested with red pine scale (the same insect which recently destroyed red pine plantations in Bear Brook State Park). Ron recommended that the plantation be clear-cut before the trees deteriorate, die, and become un-merchantable. Ron estimated that the harvest would probably net \$1,000 to the Town, but noted that the bidding process and the need to work under frozen-ground conditions would require that the harvest be delayed until next winter.

The CC discussed possible options for getting the work done this winter. One option would be to award a contract to a logging company currently working in Pembroke, without going through a bidding process. This is reasonable because of the minimal amount of timber involved, the time and cost involved to put it out to bid, and the salvage nature of the harvest.

Motion/Action Item: Brian motioned that the Chairman request the BOS, at their February 17 meeting, to approve a sole-source contract with Chuck Rose, LLC, who is currently conducting a logging operation on 7th Range Road, to harvest the infested 4.5 acre red pine plantation on the Butterfield parcel this winter. Carol seconded. All voted in favor.

Motion: Ammy motioned that, assuming BOS approval of a sole-source contract, the CC authorize her to sign any documents necessary to execute the logging operation as expeditiously as possible. Steve seconded. All voted in favor.

Action Item: Brian agreed to contact the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), a co-steward of this parcel, and advise them of our intent to cut the plantation.

Ron stated that he would fill out an “Intent to Cut” form and drop it off at the Town Hall for signature assuming the BOS will approve the contract.

Ron mentioned that the CC should consider a herbicide application to the clear-cut area approximately 2 years after the harvest in order to cutback the predominance of invasive species which are already prevalent in adjacent areas.

Regarding the Beck and Clark parcels, Ron suggested that the CC should consider keeping them as “Natural Areas” rather than actively manage them for forest products due to access difficulties, wetlands, and the abutting subdivisions. It would be difficult to conduct forest harvesting operations on those parcels without jeopardizing public relations.

- 6. Minutes of January 19, 2015 meeting.** – Ammy moved that we approve the draft minutes of the January 19th meeting. Carol seconded. All voted in favor.

7. Planning Board Applications – The CC examined a proposed lot-line revision for 615-623 Borough Road (Lots 87 & 88). No environmental impact was apparent, so a ‘no comment’ response will be provided.

8. NHDES Actions – No new items were submitted for comment.

9. Potential Land Acquisitions

- a. Nolin Parcels** - Ammy received a letter from Kristin Nolin inquiring as to whether CC was interested in purchasing her two lots (Map 258, Lots 23 & 24, 11.2 and 49 acres, respectively). Ammy called and discussed Kristin’s asking price and any other restrictions that might be placed on the sale. Ammy advised that the CC had walked the property and that the asking price (\$300,000) was excessive relative to what we have paid for other conservation land. Ammy also noted that the amount was significantly more than the Town currently had in the Conservation Fund.
- b. Town-owned Lands** – Ammy is meeting with the BOS tomorrow to discuss the CC’s interest in acquiring several of the town-owned lands that were taken for delinquent taxes. She will also discuss our willingness to pay the legal costs the Town incurred to acquire these properties.

10. Other Business

- a. SPNHF Membership – Motion:** Ammy moved that the CC authorize payment of \$50 for our continued membership. Carol seconded. All voted in favor.
- b. Ames Brook Field Trip Bus Payment – Action Item:** Ammy will investigate the most appropriate source of funds for this payment.

11. Mail and Correspondence – No significant items.

12. Adjournment: Ammy moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM. Steve seconded. All voted in favor.

Submitted by Brian Mrazik, Secretary Pro Tem.

Next Meeting – March 9th.