

# **Pembroke Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **February 8, 2021**

In attendance: Ammy Heiser (Chair), Carol Bertsimas (Vice), Ayn Whytemare (Secretary), Brian Mrazik, David Baril, Wendy Weisiger, Susan Plante.

#### **Emergency Declaration (Virtual Meeting)**

#### **Call to Order/Attendance**

##### **1) Conservation Lands**

- 2) Hillman** Mike Potash from RMI came forth with a different fertilizer made from waste gelatine made from animal bones. Net positive because there would not have heavy metals. Need to make sure that Phosphorus levels don't get too high with soil tests. Would like to look at their lab analysis and application rates, as well as wetland and surface water setbacks. Ammy moved to approve application provided that they give us a lab analysis and following all BMP and surface water setbacks for the state of NH. Ammy-yes, Carol-yes, Ayn-yes, Brian-yes, David-yes, Wendy-yes, Susan-yes

##### **3) Planning Board Applications** None

##### **4) DES Letters and Applications** Whytemare wetland plans officially approved.

##### **5) Review and Approve Minutes~ January 11, 2021** Ammy moved to accept with minor corrections, David seconded. Ammy-yes, David-yes, Brian-yes, Wendy-yes, Susan-yes, Carol-yes.

##### **6) Review and Approve January 20, 2021 Minutes (Working Session).** Carol moved to accept as written, Brian seconded. Carol-yes, Brian-yes, Ammy-yes, Wendy-yes, Ayn-yes, Susan-yes.

##### **7) Other Business**

- i) Range Roads** Brian has adapted a previous PowerPoint presentation to fit our needs for presenting to the BOS. Includes definition of recreational vehicles, why we need to manage them on range roads: Safety, protection the roads themselves, protect wildlife, abutter's lands, and to make them useable for all types of users (not just OHRVs). There has been an exponential increase in number of OHRVs using the RR and increased weight and size. Excessive speeds and bad behavior documented. Includes visuals for each issue mentioned. Summary of town's legal authority to regulate this activity. Actions that can be taken, what other towns have done. Our recommendations: 1. Add OHRVs to current seasonal ban of trucks, 2. Time of day, 3. Speed limit, 4. Vehicles equipped with mufflers etc., 5. Fines for

violations, 6. OHRV committee to advise BOS on issues, 7. Establish special PD department to follow these issues, 8. Study feasibility of issuing permits. Sample signage.

- ii) Most of our RR are used recreationally and for logging. In some towns the roads have been so damaged logging trucks cannot get in to do their job and impacts landowners and town income. We can find "intent to cut" notices filed with the town and the taxes expected. Ammy and Ayn reviewed BOS minutes from 1982-1993 and saw no mention of RR vehicle traffic. Henniker is having a problem because of personalities and ATV clubs involved, but Warner has been successful because of abutters concerns about noise and nuisance. They used mass mailings and outreach over a year to convince BOS to ban. Some towns specify certain roads where they are allowed and some which they are not. Hopkinton has hours of operations, speed limits, noise reduction measures, special units within the police department. Concern that PowerPoint presentation does not specifically address overuse and abuse, how do we measure that any way? We are the ONLY town in the state with "soft" roads that allow these vehicles during mud season. ATV clubs support this as well.
- iii) Discussion of what we want to happen: Seasonal ban? Outright Ban? Are they even allowed? Is there any way to limit usage to town residents, or charge for a special registration? Can we provide more resources for police to enforce existing ban and bad behavior? Minimum requirement: adding OHRV ban to our seasonal closures, preferably as soon as this spring. PCC can offer to put up BIG signs and get the word out through whatever social media that we can.

ACTION ITEM: **All of Us:** Reach out to anyone we know who lives near a RR entrance to get their experience. **Ayn** will look at BOS minutes from 1994-2004, ask how much the Police Department spent on RR enforcement last year, and get Fire Department's experience with ATV's on the RR. **Brian** will get answers to legal questions. (NH Trails bureau & Municipal Association good resources.) **Ammy** will check to try and get on the next BOS agenda and reach out to Chief Gilman for support. **Susan** can research what other town's signs say and what different types of signs might cost as well as turnaround time (Wendy to be a resource) Sign Language: OHRVS PROHIBITED BETWEEN DECEMBER 16-MAY 31 EXCEPT SNOWMOBILES.

b) **Open Space Developments** Had not had the survey available yet, still in draft form.

c) **Master Plan** Final meeting Tuesday February 9.

d) **Dues and Subscriptions** Ayn moved to give \$100 towards annual dues to the Forest Society. Ammy seconded. Brian-yes, Carol-yes, David-yes, Susan-yes, Wendy-yes, Ayn-yes. Carol moved to renew dues to Five Rivers Conservation Trust for \$200. Ammy seconded. Brian-yes, Wendy-yes, Ayn-yes, Susan-yes, David-yes, Carol-yes, Ammy-yes.

8) **Mail and Correspondence** None of consequence.

9) **Adjournment** 9:18 pm. We can't wait until we can meet in person!

NEXT MEETING ON MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>