

CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2019

6:00 The Conservation Commission public hearing and meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Harry Viens. Present for the Commission were voting members Gwen Bronson, Karin Karagozian, George Gurney and alternate Maureen Criasia. Public attendees were Rick Van de Poll, Lee Mattson, Lisetta Silvestri (LRCT), Roger Larochelle (SLCS), Charley Hanson and George Tall.

6:01 Mr. Viens opened the hearing pertaining to the proposed expenditures from the Conservation Fund to the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS-\$5000.00) and to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT-\$2500.00) as contributions to long term monitoring and stewardship of Belknap Woods, a conservation area in Center Harbor, per RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) and RSA 36-A:5, II.

Mr. Viens asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the expenditures. Mr. Hanson, Mr. Van de Poll, and Mr. Tall all spoke in favor of the proposed expenditures and mentioned the generous donation of a parcel of land by Lee and Randy Mattson that will further expand Belknap Woods. Alternate Maureen Criasia spoke in favor of the expenditures, as did Commissioner Karin Karagozian.

Commissioner Don Carey (a voting member) joined the meeting at 6:18PM. A brief discussion ensued among commissioners and the remaining members of the Commission indicated that they too favored the expenditures.

Mr. Viens asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition to the expenditures; no one spoke.

As no one was in opposition and no additional members of the public joined the hearing Mr. Viens closed the hearing at 6:25PM.

Mr. Viens moved that the Conservation Commission release the funds to SLCS and LRCT for the purpose of stewardship and monitoring of Belknap Woods, in accordance with and as per RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b). Mr. Gurney seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous.

6:30 Mr. Viens closed the hearing and re-opened the Conservation Commission meeting.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes: Draft minutes of the October 4, 2019 meeting has been posted on the Town website but no printed copies were available for review at this time. Accordingly, approval of the minutes was tabled until the next regular meeting of the Commission.

Fogg Hill Monitoring Update:

- Mr. Van de Poll reported that he had recently monitored the Fogg Hill Conservation Area and found no violations. He has submitted a written report

to the Center Harbor Conservation Commission and it has been forwarded to the property owner, LRCT.

- He noted abutters were marking their own boundaries. In follow up, he contacted Dave Mallard of LRCT and recommended that the conservation parcel boundary markers be more clearly and visibly marked and/or updated as appropriate. He was particularly concerned that some abutters may be planning some tree cutting and wanted to ensure that there would be no encroachment occurring onto the Fogg Hill Conservation Area property.
- He reported that the beaver dam area and impounded water on the property showed no signs of leaking or potential failure.
- Ms. Criasia noted that the Fogg Hill Conservation Area consists of 2 parcels; the original Fogg Hill parcel and a parcel formerly owned by the Bascoms, purchased by LRCT. She reported that she had forwarded a copy of Mr. Van de Poll's report to Lori Sommer at NHDES, as NHDES holds an executory interest in the Fogg Hill parcel's conservation easement. She mentioned that Barb and Don Picard had volunteered as LRCT Property Adopters for the Fogg Hill Conservation Area.

Sturtevant Cove Dept of Safety Bureau of Hearings Decision Report: Mr. Viens reported that the Sturtevant Cove Association petition submitted to DOS for additional moorings has been denied. Copies of the DOS decision report dated October 16, 2019 were distributed for the Commission's review and will be kept on file for inspection by the public.

Correspondence: No current correspondence

Additional Business:

- Mr. Viens reported that he had recently participated in a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC). Copies of the agenda and background for the meeting were provided for the files.
- Ms. Criasia reported that the NHDES (Dept. of Environmental Services) will be publishing new administrative rules regarding prime wetland buffers this year, however, it was noted that Center Harbor's own buffers provide significantly more protection than the pending State regulations.
- Mr. Larochelle reported that there would be a ceremonial Bell Ringing on the outer loop trail of Belknap Woods on Nov. 16 at 10:00 to celebrate the addition of the 38 acres donated by Lee and Randy Mattson. All are invited!
- Mr. Viens requested opinions from the Commissioners on the budget request for 2020. Ms. Criasia asked that a summary of actual expenditures be provided. Mr. Viens noted he would get the expenditure details to the commission but it was his belief that the primary expenditures were for membership in NHACC and for water sampling & testing of Hawkins Pond (and possibly Center Harbor Bay). 2019 Budget was \$500 and appears to have been overspent slightly. Discussion suggested that \$1000 be considered for 2020.

Public Input: None

7:00 Adjournment: There being no additional business to come before the Commission Mr. Viens adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Viens, Acting Chairman