

Town of Center Harbor
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Friday 10-4-2019
1:00 PM

Present: Harry Viens Acting Chairman; Commissioners Karin Karagozian, Gwen Bronson, George Gurney; Former Commissioner Maureen Criasia; Lisetta Silvestri, Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT)

1:00 PM – Call to order by Acting Chairman Viens

1:02 PM – Approval of minutes from September 5th 2019 meeting. One minor correction suggested by Ms. Criasia and made by Chairman. Move to approve by George Gurney, seconded by Karin Karagozian, vote was unanimous.

1:03 PM Correspondence – None

1:04 PM Old Business

- Sturtevant Cove Association Mooring Application – No updates at this time
- No other old business

1:05 PM New Business – LRCT request for a donation from the Conservation Commission for stewardship and monitoring funds for an additional 38 acre parcel expanding Belknap Woods conservation area. Distributed: a letter from LRCT dated September 25, 2019 and a map showing the two properties.

The request is for a one-time \$7500.00 donation to provide ongoing stewardship and monitoring for a 38-acre parcel being donated to the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) and added to the Belknap Woods conservation area. The donors of the parcel are Center Harbor residents Lee and Randy Mattson. The area being donated spans two watersheds (Squam and Winnepesaukee), is part of the 3rd of 4 largest forest blocks in the town, encompasses critical wildlife habitat and contains a portion of a designated Prime Wetlands complex, attributing it a high conservation value. It is documented in the Center Harbor Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) to be a significant ecological area for its wetland dependent wildlife habitat, migratory waterfowl and vernal pools.

Ms. Silvestri explained that the Property would be owned by the SLA; Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) would hold a conservation easement on the property and LRCT would have an executory interest in the easement, thus providing double protection. The requested funds will help provide stewardship and monitoring of the property in perpetuity. Mr. Viens inquired as to whether the Town would receive a copy of the annual monitoring report. Ms Silvestri assured the Commission this would be provided.

After some discussion Mr. Viens moved that the Center Harbor Conservation Commission, as allowed by the optional powers granted to it by passage of a Warrant Article at the 2015 Town Meeting, and authorized by NH RSA 36-A:4-a,I(b), donate \$7500 (split as follows - \$5000 to SLCS - \$2500 to LRCT) for the purpose of stewardship and monitoring of Belknap Woods conservation property, said monies to be disbursed from the Conservation Fund. Seconded by Mr. Gurney, vote was unanimous.

Mr. Viens noted he would inform the Select Board of the decision and will send a letter to the town Treasurer, requesting release of the funds to the appropriate organizations.

1:52 PM – Additional Business – Ms. Criasia indicated she would be interested in rejoining the Conservation Commission as an alternate commissioner. After some discussion it was moved by Mr. Gurney, seconded by Ms. Karagozian to recommend to the Select Board the appointment of Ms. Criasia as an alternate member to the Commission. Vote was unanimous.

1:53 PM – Adjournment – No other business being brought before the Commission, Mr. Viens moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gurney, vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Viens, Acting Chairman