



TOWN OF BOW

Conservation Commission

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Approved as amended on August 7, 2017.

Bow Conservation Commission Meeting July 17, 2017 Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Bow Conservation Commission was held on July 17 at 7:30 PM. Chair Sandy Crystall called the meeting to order.

Members present: Sandy Crystall, Wendy Waskin, and Bob Ball. David Kirkpatrick and Dave Eskeland were excused. Kitty Lane was absent. Prospective member, Amanda Kallenbach was in attendance.

Unapproved minutes 06/12/2017

After reviewing the minutes and making changes Mr. Ball made the motion, duly seconded by Ms. Waskin, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Items for Consideration/Discussion:

1. Turee Pond – status of various activities

Ms. Crystall read the item into the record and members discussed the Aqualogic report on the milfoil removal that was conducted by divers over 6.5 days in late May and early June. The divers removed many gallons of milfoil – the total had not been calculated from the report. Members discussed the effectiveness of herbicide used in 2016 and information from the surveys done by Amy Smagula, NHDES Exotic Species Coordinator. Ms. Crystall noted that no invoice had yet been received from the contractor.

Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) – Mr. Ball described the June VLAP sampling on Turee Pond and the sampling results. He took measurements and water samples at three locations. The nutrient, phosphorus, was the parameter of the most concern, in particular at inlet at the southeast corner of the pond behind the high school. The total phosphorus concentration (43 micrograms (ug)/liter) is considered excessive, with the other two locations having concentrations of 15 ug/L and 17 ug/L. The NHDES VLAP coordinator suggested sampling the inlet next time, instead of the center of the pond. Secchi disk readings (used to measure clarity of the water) were not so good, but Turee Pond is a eutrophic pond, and thus better readings are not necessarily expected. Conductivity levels in the pond were at levels that are considered “impacted by humans.” A

narrative report that interprets the season's sampling results will be provided by NHDES after the end of the sampling season.

2. Master Plan – Natural Resources section – Goals, objectives and actions

Two members and Ms. Kallenbach provided three approaches to goals/objectives/recommendations. Mr. Ball developed goals, objectives and actions focused on the Conservation Commission. Mr. Eskeland provided four objectives that focus on conservation and rural character, education and awareness, access to Bow's natural resources, and acquisition priorities and stewardship. Ms. Kallenbach's approach was reorganization of old recommendations.

Among the items discussed:

- The timing of the master plan comments and completion.
- BCC goals and objectives vs. the larger Natural Resources topics.
- Format of other chapters.
- Strategic plan for commission vs. natural resources
- In addition to the Conservation Commission, the role of other committees or boards with interests under various topics in Natural Resources chapter, such as groundwater and the Drinking Water Protection Committee.
- Purpose of Master Plan – support zoning decisions
- Items in Natural Resources section such as the dam infrastructure – don't really fit the rest of the section.
- Make sure the goals and objectives (and topics) in the chapter are being addressed– difficult to understand formatting.
- Land, water resources, and air quality.

After some discussion, members reviewed the submitted write-ups and Natural Resources section and came up with the following three goals to start.

Goal 1: Bow has an abundance of well-managed natural resources that enhance the quality of life for its residents.

Goal 2: Maintain undeveloped areas that enhance the rural character.

(Emphasis on rural character by residents during visioning session and survey.)

Goal 3: A citizen base that has awareness of the strengths and vulnerabilities of the town's natural resources.

Need objectives/actions to describe how these goals are being accomplished.

Ms. Crystall will pull the suggested edits together and redistribute to members for subsequent review and seek more time from the planning board, if possible.

Other items

Boundary marking/Tree cutting for views on town land & forest management

- Ron Klemarczyk, the town forester, did boundary markings per Office of Energy and Planning's easement monitoring, as well as tree cutting to renew the views at Nottingcook Forest.
- There was no new information on the Morgan Lot logging project.

Mr. Ball debriefed members about his attendance at the "State of the Waters Workshop" sponsored by the Merrimack Watershed Council. He said it was not that beneficial as there was a goal setting exercise in the morning, and the talks in afternoon focused on Massachusetts. No other NH Conservation Commission members were in attendance.

Ms. Crystall discussed the federally listed threatened plant present in Bow in an area that may be subject to additional land management activities. Ms. Crystall contacted an expert who has done surveys for a NH state agency and received a proposal to do a survey of the parcel at a cost of \$300. Mr. Ball made a motion to the hire consultant to conduct the survey. Ms. Waskin seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Erosion on the Fish and Game boat ramp and approach road.

- Turee Pond erosion – Discussed the erosion of the road and the need to have it addressed. Mr. Ball took photos of the materials that had washed onto the ramp and beyond after a recent significant rainstorm. Re-establishing a crown would direct water to the sides and not down the road to the pond. There is the potential for the erosion issue to be addressed when a renewed effort is made to repair/replace the boat ramp. In 2009, the NH Fish and Game Dept. unsuccessfully sought a wetland permit where new, undisturbed areas for a replacement ramp in a new orientation were proposed. Turee Pond is a prime wetland and the threshold for NHDES's wetland permit approvals is much higher than for non-prime wetland projects. The boat ramp has continued to deteriorate. Ms. Crystall met with a NHDES person to seek information on conditions that may have caused the boat ramp to deteriorate.

Analyzing fish for mercury.

- Mr. Ball had previously inquired about NHDES testing of Turee Pond fish for mercury. Ms. Crystall had obtained information from NHDES biologist Walter Henderson about the type, size, and number of fish needed for such analysis and shared that information.

Other Business

APPROVED MINUTES

Bow Conservation Commission Meeting 7/17/17

Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (UMRLAC) - UMRLAC represents six municipalities and *conducts a variety of programs and projects throughout the upper Merrimack watershed*. UMRLAC activities include a water quality monitoring program, and “Bug Nights” for volunteers to identify the aquatic insects collected as part of its monitoring. Membership for the municipality is \$150. Ms. Waskin motioned to approve \$150 membership payment to UMRLAC. Mr. Ball seconded. Unanimous.

NHACC Annual Meeting Nov 4: Ms. Crystall encouraged attendance at the NHACC annual meeting– Nov 4 (first Saturday). It is especially helpful for new members, but there is always updated useful information for long-time members.

Next Meeting: The next meeting date needs to be changed to accommodate schedule of the Chair. A suggestion was made to poll other members to see what date will work.

Projects before other boards: Ms. Crystall mentioned two projects that came to the BCC with buck slips. She briefly described them.

1. Proposed building addition at business on Garvin’s Falls Road.
 2. Carol Hess real estate seeking variance to convert to residential from commercial use.
- After a brief discussion, the consensus was that the Conservation Commission had no concerns.

Mr. Ball moved to adjourn. Ms. Waskin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM