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TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Conservation Commission

P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360

<http://www.brookline.nh.us>

Minutes
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
Conservation Commission
Meeting Start at or about 7:00 PM

Present: Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman
Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman
Jordan Bailey, Member
Tom Rogers, Member
Eric DiVirgilio, Alternate
Jerry Jaworski, Alternate
Ron Olsen, Selectboard Representative
Drew Kellner, Alternate Selectboard Representative

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Sean McNair and Tad Putney.

Buddy called the meeting to order at 7pm. **Tad** noted we are meeting electronically and remotely under the governor's Executive Order 2020-04 and Executive Orders #12 and #23. In following with these orders, **Tad** asked each commission member, beginning with **Buddy**, to state where they are, why they are there and who, if anyone, is in the room with them. All members responded.

Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair

Jay nominated Francis (Buddy) Dougherty as chair, seconded by Ron. There were no other nominations. Roll call vote in favor 4-0-1 with Jordan abstaining.

Ron nominated Jay Chrystal as vice-chair, seconded by Buddy. There were no other nominations. Roll call vote in favor 4-0-1 with Jordan abstaining.

Kiosk Discussion

Buddy said that the kiosk at Mary's Trail and several others recently had some information posted in them, which he was happy to see and is hopeful we can get more information in all of them. **Tom** said that **Michelle Decoteau** has been the volunteer working on it and he will check in with her and report back at the next meeting. **Buddy** said that he could add more information to some kiosks this weekend. **Drew** and **Jordan** said they have some Wild & Scenic material that could be added. **Tom** said he will email **Michelle** tonight and get her in contact with **Buddy**.

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Trail and Trailhead Usage During COVID-19

Buddy said he has not seen overcrowding of the trails or trailheads the past week or so. **Jay** suggested signage would be helpful at the Palmer Bartell parking lot to advise of additional parking across the street at the end of Hood Road. **Tom** agreed. **Tom** noted that some less-known trails are being used. **Jordan** said the trails around Bohanon Bridge Road have been busy, but not a problem.

7:16pm - **Buddy** opened the Public Hearing pursuant to NH RSA 36-A:5 and said the Brookline Conservation Commission is holding a Public Hearing via Zoom to consider the use of Land Acquisition Funds in the amount of \$20,991 for the completion of the Hobart Fessenden easement with Piscataquog Land Conservancy. **Drew** said that the amount needed from the Land Acquisition Fund can be reduced to \$10,991 due to recent receipt of a \$10,000 donation. He said, with the latest donation, we have privately fundraised about two-thirds of what is needed and this will take us through the closing of the easement for Hobart Fessenden Woods. There were no comments from the public. **Ron moved, seconded by Tom, to approve using \$10,991 from the Land Acquisition Fund to complete the Hobart Fessenden easement. Roll call vote in favor 4-0-1 with Jordan abstaining.**

Review of Easement Cataloging Effort

Jerry provided a slide summarizing his easement cataloging efforts. **Jerry** and **Jordan** agreed it had been 12-18 months since the effort was first discussed by members. **Jerry** said he has reviewed conservation deeds and easements and first started with the list of properties in the town report and then supplemented the information with data from the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) database. He said he wanted to review and confirm the objectives of the effort with members and he noted that NRPC is willing to assist in the effort at no charge. He said the objectives include:

- Documenting the book and page of all deeds and the physical address of each location
- Documenting the allowances and restrictions of each
- Storing downloaded PDFs, scanned images and documents in an online repository
- Assisting NRPC in adding protected lots and portions thereof to the Conserved Lands GIS Database
- Developing a plan to periodically monitor owned and managed properties

Drew suggested differentiating town-owned properties (such as a cemetery) from land that is under the purview of the conservation commission and that we focus on the latter.

Jerry showed a portion of tax map "C" that depicted conservation areas in a shade of green, including only *portions* of lots. He noted, as an example, some shaded green coloring along a wet area of several lots starting at lot C-10-1 and extending to lot C-10-16 along North Mason Road. He said this denoted an area that had a conservation easement placed by the developer years ago and it is not included in the information **Kristen** has at the town hall. He said there are some other, similar areas, which are not in our records. **Jay** said that the easement area **Jerry** is speaking about was not "open space" and therefore will not show up in town ownership. He said these types of

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easements were done a number of years ago before things were changed to how we do it today. **Jay** said such areas are noted as “conservation easements”, but have no stated owner who holds or monitors the area. He said we need to continue to do research to identify these areas around town and the commission may be looking after them in the future. **Jay** said often these older easements do not have a book and page referenced at the town hall. **Jerry** said he would like to see all conservation easements on the map, even if we do not manage them. **Jay** said **Kristen** will have many plans and they should be reviewed to look at the “notes” for where conservation easements are mentioned. **Tad** suggested that **Valerie Rearick**, as Town Planner, could also be a source of assistance in obtaining plans for review. Members said they were comfortable with the direction **Jerry** was headed. **Jordan** said that often the conservation easement is not with the most recent deed, but one needs to go back a deed or two to actually see the conservation easement. **Buddy** said he thinks the planning board should be called on to assist in the research efforts as they were involved in the plans.

Discuss Additional Gates

Tom said the issue of motorized vehicles on the trails has picked up recently with more people around. He said several people have contacted **Kristen** and him about them. **Tom** suggested that six to eight additional gates around town would help address the damage and erosion that is resulting from motorized vehicles. He noted that the gates in the area of Melendy Pond, Hood Road and parts of Palmer Bartell have been successful. **Tom** said he would propose specific locations at the next meeting.

Review of Planning Board Plan #2020.4: F-73 and F-73-1

Ron asked for the reason the plan has been proposed. **Drew** offered that it could be to provide an additional building lot. **Jordan** said she had no issues with the plan. **Drew** said he saw no conservation issues. No other issues or questions were raised.

Jay moved, seconded by Ron, to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (d) for the discussion of possible land acquisition, to seal the minutes and adjourn immediately after. Roll call vote in favor 7-0. Public session closed at 7:54. Minutes by Tad Putney.

Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman _____

Jay Chrystal, Vice Chairman _____

Jordan Bailey, Member _____

Tom Rogers, Member _____

Eric DiVirgilio, Alternate _____

Jerry Jaworski, Alternate _____

Ron Olsen, Selectboard Representative _____

Drew Kellner, Alternate Selectboard Representative _____

Motion to approve at the Bcc zoom meeting 2/19/20