

**Town of Bristol
Conservation Commission
April 6, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Members Present: Janet Cote, Sandra Heaney, Richard Batchelder, and Carroll Brown.

Others Present: Boyd Smith, NLRA.

Minutes Review and Approval: Sandra Heaney moved to approve the March 2, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded Richard Batchelder. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

Correspondence Review: Info Requests, Wetlands Permits, Planning Board, Zoning Board, etc.

Meeting Notices:

Planning Board: April 13th at the Bristol Fire Station, Public Hearing on Site Plan/Subdivision Parking Requirements. Continued Site Plan for New England Family Housing.

New England Stewardship Training invitation was received. The DES Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau newsletter was received.

New Business:

Brett Plankey Spring: Boyd Smith from Newfound Lakes Region Association was present to discuss the protection of the recharge area of the spring with the Commission. Mr. Boyd suggested that the Conservation Commission and the NLRA work together to see if protecting the area around the spring is possible. The NLRA has experience with conservation easements and can help the Commission put the project together and help raise funds if needed. The Conservation Commission would hold the easement. Mr. Boyd commented that this is in the earliest stages and the first step would be to talk with the landowner. Mrs. Cote commented that the family is not adverse to conservation and that the owner will probably want to protect the spring as his family donated it to the town. Mrs. Cote commented that the Commission does have a conservation fund for these kinds of purposes. There is about \$2,100 in the fund. Mr. Brown informed the Commission that he would call the land owner about the easement. Mr. Smith commented that he will talk to the land committee with NLRA about helping with legal costs using the Gemmill Fund. Mr. Batchelder commented that the Commission should pursue this. Mrs. Cote will talk with the Town Administrator to see what the Commission has to do to start this project.

Louis Eyster Proposal: A letter was received from Mr. Eyster outlining his proposal for leasing the spring to a bottling company for distribution of the water from the spring. Mrs. Cote commented that the spring does not run too fast, only 2 gallons per minute, and that it has

gone dry in the past. Mrs. Cote informed Mr. Eyster that this was not a project the Commission could think about right away. Mr. Eyster feels that a valve should be at the spring to turn the water off and that the spring could be revenue for the town. Mrs. Cote commented that having a valve on the spring could cause bacteria problems. Mrs. Cote commented that the deed would need to be looked at to see what the intention of the gift was. Mrs. Cote informed that Commission that the spring is technically not a public water supply. Ms. Heaney commented that she said that the proposal does not feel right as the spring was a gift to the townspeople. Mr. Brown commented that the Commission needs to be ready to explain to the town that the water is not being “wasted” as it runs continuously. Mr. Brown also feels that the wording of the intention of the gift needs to be considered. Mrs. Cote commented that if the proposal happens the spring would become a public water supply and also the town does not own where the water comes from. Ms. Heaney commented that there would be a liability of the town sold the water. Mr. Brown commented that he can find out from DES if the proposal turns the spring into a public water supply.

Ms. Heaney made a motion to reject the proposal from Mr. Eyster as it is not in the spirit of the gift, the town does not own the sources of the water, and the proposal could make the spring a public water supply. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. The Commission voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Memorial Rain Garden/Plaque: Mrs. Cote commented that she has not talked with the Pasquanney Garden Club yet regarding the garden. Ms. Heaney commented that the rain garden could be somewhere along the river in town and it should be call the Mason Westfall Memorial Garden. The green space where the Mica Building was could be a possibility. Ms. Heaney commented that the plaque could explain how a rain garden works. Mrs. Cote commented that she will talk to the Town Administer about whether the Commission can plan something like this at the Mica building lot.

Old Business:

Northern Pass: Mrs. Cote informed the Commission that she has not received any updates and that the Town Administrator does share all the emails that the Select Board receives regarding this. The public hearings were postponed.

Kevin Lacasse and Kent Brown (for NE Family Housing) (Bridgewater Investment Group) - 409 Lake Street Map 112 Lot 37: Alteration of Terrain Application received for building project-Planning Board Site Plan Review-32 unit multi-family apartment development. Ms. Heaney informed the Commission that a formal opinion from the Conservation Commission needs to be sent to the Planning Board. The project is completely out of the flood plain now. The recommendations from the advisors from UNH were all acted upon and all major concerns were responded to. Mrs. Cote commented that the project needs to have a maintenance plan of the swales and basin in perpetuity. Mrs. Cote will draft a statement for the Planning Board.

Hemlock Brook Road: The Select Board sent out a letter to the owners. The issues with the road, including the 50’ buffer issue, were addressed in the letter. This could become a legal issue now. The owners have asked for an extension for fixing the road.

Tools for Review: Mrs. Cote informed the Commission that flood plain maps and other items can be ordered after June. Mr. Brown commented that Mason Westfall has some flood plain maps. There are also aerial photos somewhere in the town. Mr. Brown suggested getting a map drawer of file for better storage of the maps.

Work Session: Efforts will continue to purge and organize files.

Next Meeting Logistics: Next scheduled meeting May 4, 2016

Individual Tasks Assignments: Carroll Brown will call Mr. Plankey regarding the conservation easement at the spring. Mrs. Cote will call the Town Administrator regarding the easement and the rain garden at the Mica building lot. Mrs. Cote will draft the Planning Board Statement.

Adjournment: Mr. Batchelder made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Costigan, Secretary