

Andover Conservation Commission
February 14, 2024
Final Minutes

Present: Nancy Robart, Jenny Bodwell, Tina Cotton, Sooze Hodgson, Lee Wells, Jerry Hersey, Nancy Teach

Also attending: Donna Duclos

January Minutes and 2.2.24 Select Board Mtg minutes: motion made to accept both minutes made by Nancy R, seconded by Sooze: all in favor.

Dyer's Crossing/McDonough status update: The Conservation Easement Deed has been signed by Andover's Selectboard members and the Conservation Commission Co-Chairs. It is ready for the Ausbon Sargent Board Chair to sign. Then it will be recorded and put on file in the town office. Nancy R talked about signage for the easement. It will cost between \$250 - \$300. Motion made by Nancy R to have a sign made, seconded by Jenny: all in favor. Details on the exact wording of the sign to worked out later.

Bradley Lake Easements: Status update/plan for boundary correction. In 1994 Town voted to have the town owned Bradley Point property monitored by the Andover Conservation Commission (ACC). The petition to place it under easement is complete and the warrant article will be on the Town Meeting agenda. Jesse is working on his presentation at Town Meeting. ACC worked on editing his presentation. We can have a table with trifold on that day. Jesse will present, Nancy R will be back-up. We need to let Ann Marie Mahoney know that we will be doing this, Jesse will be in touch with her. Lee and Nancy R will work on Trifold. We will invite water district/Jeff Dickinson to help with that.

The other town owned lot Bradley Lake parcel/Bradley Lane: Abutter should provide us his survey of his land. We need to work with the abutter, negotiate lot line adjustment: some lakefront for road front. Then get on late March, early April Planning Board schedule for non-binding consultation.

ACC Banner draft: group made suggestions to improve and would like to add the year we were established. Lee will research the history of the ACC, Nancy R will send draft to printer to get a price. Jenny made motion to spend up to \$125 on banner, seconded by Jesse: all in favor.

Jesse has been in touch with the Warner River Local Advisory Committee which protects the watershed for Warner River. Jesse asked them to do a presentation here that we can host, we can invite Blackwater River Towns and encouraged interested parties to get a similar action

committee going to protect the Blackwater. Work on this later this year. Nancy will be in touch with woman in Wilmot, who works at DES protecting watershed for advice.

Andy Deegan is the interim head at ASLPT now.

Budget process has been different this year because he has spanned two different town administrators. Both the budget committee and the Select Board agree on budget. We have \$1800 in our budget and \$2500 for Beaver Deceiver maintenance, which is included under the town road maintenance plan.

We need to work with the Select Board so they better understand what we do, what we are allowed to do. We should also have them see a monitoring report.

Planning Board meeting 2.13.24: There is a developer doing clear cutting along route 4 near Eagle Pond, the Wilmot town line, and the Donald Hall home. Brian Thomas, Proctor Head of School, spoke about how valuable this property is (Proctor owns land nearby). The developer wants to have 6 lots – standard 2 acres. The Andover Conservation will look into whether the developer might leave undeveloped the portion of the property on the west side of the rail trail which abuts the river, as a green space for hiking trails and protection of wetlands. The Andover Conservation Commission further will explore with the developer their possible interest in selling the parcel that is on the west side of the rail trail for a conservation easement. Creating a conservation easement on this portion of land that abuts the river would protect the sight line for the Hall property, protect wetlands, rail trail, etc. One of the developers/logger (Cole) is knowledgeable about wetlands.

We need to get an assessed value of the portion of land west of the rail trail and then could work with a Land Trust to possibly have it as a dedicated Hall/Kenyon easement. The Forest Society already owns some of the Hall land. We might have a ready conservation buyer, someone who lives nearby who does not want to see it developed. Jesse might be able to get interested parties to meet, including ASLPT, and come up with a plan moving forward.

Nancy T recommends that 2 of us get together to come up with a plan and a strategy. Nancy R recommends contacting one of the developers, Cole, to see if there is any interest – Nancy R will do this. Perhaps ask Sue Andrews/Anne Payeur for help with strategy?

Town Meeting: March 12

School District Meeting: March 4

We will meet March 6th – first Wednesday of the month – Lee will post the changed meeting time at Town Hall and POs.

Motion made to close meeting by Lee, seconded by Jenny: all in favor, meeting closed at 8:15