

Westmoreland Conservation Commission

March 3, 2016 meeting

Meeting called to order at 10 am.

Present: Marshall Patmos, John Lukin, Mary Bradley, April Ferguson, Perry Sawyer,
Jim Ranson, guest John Snowden

Minutes of the Feb 4 meeting were approved with a slight editorial change.

Reappointment of April Ferguson and Dick Schmidt was confirmed.

Discussion of the County property. Members who attended a County farm subcommittee meeting and a Commissioner meeting reported that a new request for proposal will be prepared in March for use of the farm property and buildings. Current lease will terminate the end of March. Fifty plus acres of open land/fields will be leased for agricultural use and will be expected to use best management practices. Buildings will be leased all inclusive or individually depending on the needs of the primary lessee. A preliminary plan for subdivision of the Blood farm was released to include 5.1 acres with most of it north of the house along River Road. Very little farm land will be impacted. Concerning separating individual county parcels to their original boundaries on the tax map has been explained by Commissioners as having to do with identification and not for any plan to eventually subdivide the County property. They have also stated that there is no plan to provide permanent conservation measures on the approx. 640 acres of land at this time.

The Planning Board will be holding a public hearing March 21 on the updated master plan that has been in the works for quite some time. Our Conservation plan will be included as a one page synopsis in the main body of the plan with the full 21 page Conservation plan included as an addendum.

We will continue to gather information on important lands, particularly along the river that are important to conserve and retain for agricultural use if at all possible. John Lukin said he will contact and meet with Stacy Gambrel of the Monadnock Conservancy for a tour along many of the important river properties.

Mary brought a tax map with individual lots labeled. She prepared in on one sheet and had a couple copies made for review. It will come in very handy for reference. She will outline the various zones on it and have several copies made for review.

Preliminary plans were made for educational sessions this Spring. An invasive plant identification field session in April or May at the County farm was discussed. Marshall will contact Steve Roberge, Extension Forester to see if and when he can hold a tour perhaps in conjunction with the Conservation District.

John mentioned he will see if Amanda Littleton Conservation District manager can meet with us at a future meeting to review their activities and possible joint programs.

Other business: There was a reminder of the March 8 NH Wildlife Action Plan review session in Keene.-- Jim will be out of town for the April and May meetings.-- There was a reminder of the April 9 Annual Land Conservation Conference in Alton NH. The Commission has budgeted for members to attend. Those interested should register soon.-- It was decided to continue day meetings of the Commission for a bit. We will schedule for Thursdays at 8:30 am at the town hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:32. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 7, at 8:30 AM at the town hall.

Submitted by Marshall Patmos