

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
March 6, 2020  
MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Lenore Clark, Chairman, Dan Coons, Vice-Chairman, Jeff Marchand, Art Slocum, Brian Gifford, Members.

**Member Absent:** Dave Senecal, BOS Representative, Ed Roundy, Warren Muir, Members, Nancy Byrd, Sarah Silk, Alternates.

**Staff Absent:** Lee Ann Hendrickson, Administrative Secretary.

*Chairman Clark opened the meeting at 9:30 AM at the Town Hall Annex conference room.*

**I. Discussion Item**

**a. Sewall Woods Easement Acquisition**

The Commission reviewed the request from the Wolfeboro Cross Country Ski Association for a donation to purchase an access easement for the parking lot and warming hut at the entrance to the Sewall Woods trail system.

***It was moved by Art Slocum to approve a donation in the amount of \$8,000 to the Wolfeboro Cross Country Ski Association for the acquisition of an access easement to the Sewall Woods trail system. There being no second, the motion failed.***

The Commission agreed the easement would be an asset to the Town.

Dan Coons reviewed the history of the Nordic Skier store, and how the trail system came about. He stated he is in favor of a more modest donation of up to \$5000.

Jeff Marchand, Brian Gifford and Lenore Clark agreed with Mr. Coons' recommended donation amount.

Jeff Marchand stated he sees the function of the Commission as a protector of natural resources, while acknowledging this needs to be balanced with allowing public access.

Lenore Clark stated she and her husband see the value in providing access in perpetuity and have already made a personal donation to the project, but agrees with Jeff Marchand with regard to the Commission's role. She noted the Commission has spent a lot of the Commission's funds on recreation trails recently. She noted the Commission received Staff's spreadsheet detailing Conservation Fund balances, outstanding projects and "asks," of which the Commission currently have several.

The Commission discussed whether the Commission's donation would count towards the Land Bank's match offer, if we were to put a stipulation on it that we would only contribute the funds if their campaign is successful.

Art Slocum, representing the Land Bank, stated no, the Land Bank would not match a “pledge,” only a hard cash donation. He said there is no hard deadline for their match offer.

Members of the Commission expressed concern that any contributions made out of the Land Conservation Fund do not get replaced, and do not wish to simply make a donation to the Cross Country Ski Association. The Commission noted they do not know the current status of the Association’s fundraising campaign; noting they may have already secured the funds.

**It was moved by Dan Coons and seconded by Brian Gifford to pledge up to \$5,000.00 to the Wolfeboro Cross Country Ski Association access easement acquisition for Sewall Woods to be contributed in the event that the Wolfeboro Cross Country Ski Association is not successful in their fundraising campaign. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.**

## **II. Other Business**

### **Ryefield Marsh Intent to Cut**

Lenore Clark stated the Commission received a letter from the Town (Assessing Office) that a logging report is due for Ryefield Marsh. She stated Dan Coons emailed Dan Stepanauskas, Forester, to request such.

Jeff Marchand examined the Intent To Cut which projected a revenue of approximately \$3400.

The Commission discussed the procedure for estimating the revenue vs. what we actually receive.

### **Tree Clearing on Dudley Road**

Lenore Clark and Dan Coons both received phone calls from an anonymous source regarding tree clearing in and around a stream bed on Dudley Road.

Dan Coons stated the property owner is legally allowed to do such on a small piece of property like this (1 acre or so) but it would be a good idea to call the logger and politely request they avoid the stream bed. He stated he would contact the logger.

*There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lee Ann Hendrickson*

Lee Ann Hendrickson

*\*Minutes prepared from notes taken by Lenore Clark*