

**Conservation Commission
Meeting minutes of
February 20, 2019**

PRESENT: Paul Carideo, Bill Guest, Tim Lovell, Brent Ebner, David Treat and Steve Ungerer.

GUEST: The Cotes and neighbors

Mr. Lovell called the meeting to order at 7PM

Minutes

Mr. Lovell made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 16, 2019, Mr. Carideo seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-2 (Mr. Ungerer and Mr. Treat abstained).

Warrant Article/Hadley Road

A resident asked the members of the Commission where they stood on Article #18. Mr. Lovell explained that there was still a lot of work that had to be done before a cell tower would be installed. Negotiations had to take place and the Planning Board would have to approve of the plan. Even if the article passed, the project might not have gone forward. Mr. Lovell further explained that if the Conservation Commission received revenue from the cell tower it might have gone a long way in purchasing larger tracts of land. The sacrifice would have been a 10x10 square foot pad and 135 feet of frontage on a 3 acre lot. Mr. Treat reminded everyone regarding the purpose of the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Cote provided a presentation concerning the residential homes that are affected in a 500/1000/1500 foot radius. The number of residents near the Hadley Road area affected in Hampstead and Plaistow exceeded that of the Kent Farm facility. When asked if Mr. Cote also analyzed the East Coast Lumber cell tower, he said yes, but did not give any specifics and went on to say that the ECL tower is different because it is on commercial property.

The residents mentioned that they were interested in applying for grants to help the Conservation Commission get money to purchase more land. The Commission members provided a history of when and how certain parcels were purchased but those opportunities were available 40 years ago and not available today. The Commission also indicated that in the past they put forward warrant articles to help fund the land purchase fund but those articles failed. Mr. Lovell mentioned that the current use money, which funds the land purchase fund is also drying up.

Moving forward

Mr. Guest presented strategies for the future for the Commission to work together on. He expressed concern for the “non-public sessions”, which is allowed pursuant to RSA. 91A:3 II (a-e). “d” is for the purchase or lease of property. Mr. Guest said that if the Commission doesn’t have a unanimous vote, then the matter should be reconsidered. Mr.

Lovell agreed that some members may feel out of the loop, because a lot of work is going on between meetings. Mr. Guest also indicated that the other Commission members should have been present at the Deliberative Session in support of the Chairman. The Commission also discussed how to budget for certain projects in the future. There should also be a certain dollar amount in the land purchase fund, under which no additional funds will be withdrawn. The purpose is so that if a property does become available they would have some money in reserve to try to work on obtaining that parcel.

After the Town vote and depending upon the vote, the Commission may then determine where it stands in relationship to article #18.

Mr. Treat explained that one of the reasons why the parcel in question was never put into an easement was possibly because no agency wanted to accept an easement on a 3-acre lot that was not connected to more valuable land. In order for this land to have some value as far as an easement is concerned, it might have to be connected to other parcels in town.

Water Advocates

Mr. Lovell explained that he would like the Commission to support (financially) the water advocates, provided that town votes to establish a committee. Mr. Lovell would like money to come out of the forest fund to help support them.

Planning Board update

Mr. Carideo gave an update concerning the Planning Board, including the HAWC water well withdrawal testing and the duplex in Granite Village.

Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Lovell said that there is a boy scout who wants to make a kiosk. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Mr. Treat. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting will be held on March 20th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Theriault, AA Town of Hampstead