

Kensington Conservation Commission

September 10, 2019

Members Present: Sydney Goddard, Bob Gustafson, Pam Holland

Select Board Not Represented

1. Call to Order: 7:45 p.m.
2. August minutes approved as written
3. Paul White was present to discuss property he owns that he would like to potential donate to the town. He received a 5 acre parcel in Great Meadow, which is wet, and a 4 acre parcel that is wooded, but is no longer accessible due to a development blocking one side of the property, and wetlands blocking the other side of the property. He would have to establish a right-of-way to access the land. He is paying taxes on these lots with no way of using them. He wants to offer both properties to the town. The wooded lot backs up to the Hodges Conservation Area. He applied for putting the 5 acre lot into current use, which was signed by the Selectmen on August 20, 2018, but he does not know if it went into effect. He will follow up with the Town Hall to review the status. At one time he tried to gift the 4 acre lot to the town, but it did not happen. The discussion continued, and the Conservation Commission agreed to investigate the cost to have a Title Search, and survey done for the 4 acre wooded lot bordering Hodges. Sydney will also check on Grants for surveys and title searches
4. A) Year 3 of treatment for invasive plant species in the Hodges Conservation Area should have taken place on the 6th, but this has not been confirmed. Sydney will follow up with the contractor.
B) Beaver activity - Beavers have built a Dam where we want to build a pedestrian bridge. Local neighbors keep clearing the affected culverts, but beavers keep building. Upstream neighbors are getting impacted due to Beaver activity on Linda Bennett's property. She put in a Beaver Deceiver, but the Beavers have built around it. The lot is getting drier, and the Commission would like to meet the person who is building the Beaver Deceiver to learn more about it.
C) Haying Agreement – Mailed the Agreement to Chris Batchelder, but have not heard back from him yet. The Agreement needs to be approved by Batchelder and the Board of Selectmen.
5. Paul White was present to discuss two properties he and his wife own in Kensington. One is a 5 acre parcel in Great Meadows, which is wet, and the second is a 4 acre parcel on French Lane which is wooded. They are paying the taxes, but are not using the land. The 4 acre wooded lot is buffer land between woods and wet land, but since development of the area he cannot access the land without pursuing the establishment of a right-of-way. With the 5 acre parcel in Great Meadow he had applied to have the parcel placed into Current Use. On August 20, 2018 the application was signed by the Board of Selectmen. He is not aware of the status and has indicated that he will be checking with Kathy Felch to find out the status. He wants to offer both parcels to the town. He had previously tried to gift the 4 acre parcel to the town, but it did not happen. The Conservation Commission will investigate the cost to do the Title Search, etc., for the 4 acre parcel as this attaches to the Hodges Conservation Area. The Great Meadows parcel is basically protected as it is all wet, but still needs to get surveyed. Paul will follow up with Kathy Felch, and Sydney will check on grants for Title Searches and Surveys.
6. Item 6 – Clean Water movement – was tabled.

7. The Commission discussed the 2020 Budget. It was determined that it should be the same as last year (\$600). Sydney motioned to accept, Bob seconded it, all were in favor.
8. 108 Town Property - a letter is being drafted to the Select Board to get on the Town Ballet. An estimate is needed to cost creation of the Letter and Lawyer Fees to determine cost to have a Conservation Easement Warrant Article placed on the Town Ballot in the spring placing the property under easement to protect the land from future development. A rough letter was drafted, and more formal letter will come later.
9. Seabrook Shooting Range – CC discussed the Shooting Range. A DES contact on the Excavation Permit was provided at Selectmen request, but no information has been provided back at this time to the CC.
10. Sydney indicated that she has had no contact with a women that has a similar situation as Paul White (see item 5 above). Wants to give her parcel in Great Meadows to the town do to taxes. There needs to be a discussion with the Selectmen about properties in Great Meadow and how do we want handle situations with property owners that want to gift their land to the town.
11. There was a discussion concerning the activities currently underway at 152 Drinkwater Road, the horse farm being developed. The developer has not protected the wetlands in the front part of the property, and there may be a need to check out the back areas. If there are further violations that are uncovered, then a request may be forthcoming to the Board of Selectmen requesting a Cease and Desist be taken.
12. A map of the Hodges conservation property prepared by a technical artist has presented to the Board of Selectmen, but we have not heard back yet. We have the potential of having additional maps produced of other conservation areas produced, but the town needs to come up with a policy on how public we make this information before anymore maps are produced.
13. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.