

Kensington Conservation Commission

June 17, 2020

Zoom Meeting due to Covid 19

Members Present: Sydnee Goddard, Bob Gustafson, Andrew Roberts, Joan Skewes

Charles Moreno, Forester

Robert Chase, Trails Committee

Karen Parker Feld

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

1. Forestry Work at Hodges

Charlie Moreno briefly discussed the past forestry work and forest management plan. Charlie prefers a mixed stage forest, old, middle and young which is resilient to storms, pest damage. The site has access issues due to wetland. The planned cut would not extend beyond the large stepping stones that cross the wetland on the east side of the property. A proposal has been submitted and the logger who was on the site previously is interested in returning to Hodges. It will probably take approximately one month to complete the work, in July-August. Charlie would prepare the site, paint the trees, mark the property lines. Trees would be selected and marked with paint to guide the logger. The forest would be cut for the health of the forest, improved growth and habitat. Some permitting would be necessary. Charlie will draft a contract between the town and the logger. Charlie will oversee work and prepare the accounting.

Robert Chase asked about equipment. Charlie indicated the equipment was mechanized, skidder. The landing site would be the small field in the back of the property. Robert Chase was concerned about trails and rutting. Charlie indicated the loggers would probably cross over the trails but would not be using the trails as a route. Also concern about slash. Some slash provides habitat.

Commission discussed this cutting has been delayed for several years due to wetness, and the Commission wanted to get control of invasive species first.

Charlie stressed that the intent of the cut is for habitat management, health and management of forest. The large trees will remain as they are the seed sources. Beech trees will be removed as they block other variety regeneration. Charlie will be paid out of the proceeds of the timber. There will be no up front costs to the town. Estimate for Charlie's services are 40 hours project preparation and 28 for project management. Charlie's professional fees are \$75 per hour and he estimates \$5,100.00 for his time.

A motion was made to engage Charlie Moreo \$5,100.00 for forestry management. All members voted in favor.

The Commission discussed posting a sign to educate the community.

Other Business

Karen Parker Feld attended meeting. Karen has concerns about activity at 152 Drinkwater Road. She has noticed additional trees cut along Richard Parker's property, the northern border into the woods. Karen has noticed truck traffic at night after dark, heavy equipment and piles of gravel, concerns that gravel will be placed on the trails that were created filling wetland. Karen requested the Commission make another on site visit, she has concerns who is monitoring site.

Robert Chase discussed the Planning Board's role. The work done outside the building is beyond the control of the Planning Board. The Commission indicated they have no control over the easement granted to the Society of Protection of NH Forests, (SPNHF).

It was advised to call NH Department of Environmental Services. Karen and Syd to contact both.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.