

• Meeting January 31, 2017

Present: Michelle Drogue, Barbara Neylan, Dream Tardiff, Alice Funk, Jim Rousmaniere

Before all were assembled for the meeting we discussed length of terms of the elected members of the Commission so as to prepare ballots for the election at the Town Meeting.

Also discussed were the number of copies of the Master Plan needed and getting an estimate for printing them.

Meeting called to order at 6:13 PM

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Each member then informed the Commission of the research each had done into areas laid out at the previous meeting:

Barbara-

Spoke with Mary Ann Kristiansen (a Town resident) about advice she would give for the grant-writing process.

- 1) Follow grant instructions EXACTLY and be diligent.
- 2) It is critical to write an interesting narrative and get a good writer to do it.
- 3) Keep your documentation all in one place so that if you need to write another grant all information is handy and organized.

Spoke with Amanda Costello (Cheshire Co. Conservation Commission). She recommended looking into the Moose Plate grant funding:

- September due date
- Grant is looking for a tangible outcome, on the ground results, i.e., to preserve, protect lands.
- Grant also looks to see that the Town has done previous conservation
- coordination with Keene regarding watershed within Roxbury (call Bret Lamb) sounds very interesting
- Include letters of support from, for example, the Monadnock Conservancy, DEA, etc.
- Call the person in charge of these grants at the State level and have a conversation up front to glean advice.
- Amanda's husband is Jeff Littleton who has done many natural resources inventories. Charges around \$5000 and up depending on level of detail. He would be willing to come and talk with us.

Barbara believes it is above our expertise to do the inventory ourselves. Michelle asked if the Moose Plate grant is perhaps not right for our project since our inventory may not have an outcome but may just be a base from which to start. If Keene agrees to work towards conservation of it's Roxbury watershed land that might qualify as "an outcome" for this grant? Barbara said that Jeff suggested incorporating an inventory with our Town steep slopes ordinance would make the Planning Board's job easier.

Michelle-

Spoke with the director of the NHACC regarding what is expected from us in a natural resources inventory.

- emailed a list of consultants to advise and/or compile the inventory
- include future wildlife action plans

- recommended Jeff Littleton

Regarding our membership in this organization, the executive director is new and will waive the first year dues. Thereafter it will be \$215/yr. Jim asks that that be brought to the budget hearing on 2/13/17.

Alice-

- borrowed the Natural Resources Inventories, Conservation Priorities and Action Plans from Nelson and Chesterfield. Everyone had a chance to look at them.

- Nelson began theirs in 2000 after a bequest was made for the purpose of conservation in that town. It was published in 2001.

- Chesterfield's was prepared by Jeff Littleton beginning in 2008 and published in 2011.

Spoke with Henry Underwood at the Southwest Region Planning Office in Keene. He said they have conducted regional as well as local versions and act in a technical assistance role. He is willing to meet with us. We can determine the amount of money we can spend and work backward from that to determine the level of detail. They have lots of flexibility. He also mentioned the Moose Plate grant as a possible source of funding as well as a tool some towns have which involves the tax money from the change of current use property into developable land going to the Town's Conservation Commission budget. (We do not have that tool and imagine that to get it would require a Town vote.)

Jim-

Spoke with Rick Brackett of the Monadnock Conservancy.

- inventories contain a number of individual items

- include a plan of action to conserve lands in the future, buy targeted lands as they come up for sale

- does Roxbury want a plan or ideas for a plan that we may want to implement in the future?

- some towns produce these inventories "in-house" (but we have very few residents)

suggests that we determine a) what we want and b) come to the next meeting with 3 plans: basic, middle or cadillac.

Dream suggests that we want a minimum or basic plan as Roxbury is so small with so few residents. Also residents may be reluctant to participate, except for photos of wildlife. Jim suggests that the Commission go to the Town Meeting and do a presentation to enlist help. Alice asks if we should plan to meet with Jeff and Henry before the Town meeting? Jim suggests going to their offices and bringing info back to the Commission. Alice offers to call Henry and set up a meeting. Jim asks WHY do we want an inventory? We understand it is a requirement of membership in the NHACC as well as helping us advise town residents and the planning Board.

Michelle-

asks if she should create a Googledocs calendar for us to share? Discussion followed and everyone agreed.

- there was too much information for her to scan and send to us from the meetings she attended so she will put it on a flash drive and we can share that to put on our computers.

Next meeting is scheduled for 2/21/17 so that we can plan a presentation for our Town Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM