

Members: Carsten Springer (chairman), Bobby Loree, Allan Hess, Dave Caillouette, Patty Shogren (alternate member), Kim Farah (BOS representative)

Absent: Jason Holder. The chair appointed Patty Shogren a voting member for this meeting.

Also Present: Shawn O'Neil

Called to Order: @7:35 PM and was televised and live streamed

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by those present.

Review Minutes: The minutes of the December 15, 2016 minutes of the joint Conservation Commission and Forestry Committee meeting were reviewed. Allan, seconded by Bobby, made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed with Patty and Dave abstaining.

New Business: Shawn O'Neil came before the ConCom to give an update regarding the beehives that he had placed on the the Sanborn Family Agricultural and Recreational Commons (SFARC) property. As reported at a past meeting, the hives were destroyed by a bear. He continued that his initial cost of setting up a nuclear hive (aka nuc), was about \$1200.00. Although a hobby, it is an expensive one. The nuc usually includes five frames with a queen bee, bees, honey and eggs to allow for the colony to get used to their surrounding environment with enough nectar to get them through the first year. The idea to put the hives up near the apple orchard and blueberry bushes, was to allow for a symbiotic situation between the bees and the trees/bushes to pollinate the crop. To get through the winter, the bees need 165 lbs. of resources. The first year the hives did well. This year the bear did them in. He would like to put new hives on the SFARC property but requested it be surrounded by a chain link fence. He thinks that the road agent may have some donated chain link fence available. He would also like the hives located in a new area because there was a large amount of poison ivy and Spanish olive (invasive species) located in the area of the hives. An ideal location would be where the bees get sun most of the day so during the winter they expend less energy trying to keep warm. Carsten will check with the road agent regarding the fence material. He suggested the members and Shawn eyeball the property for the best area to locate the new hives. Carsten noted that Shawn's willingness to do this is a financial risk to Shawn but a benefit to the town. Kim Farah asked about liability to the town if someone where to "mess" with the beehives. Patty presented a copy of the insurance policy covering town property. Carsten indicated that the state of NH, in the past, has not been sympathetic to those who go onto private property without permission and then try to sue the owner. A discussion ensued. The understanding is that as long as it is not used by a for-profit business, the town is covered. Carsten indicated that Shawn has lost \$1200.00 on this project. Shawn mentioned that as the orchard is expanded, that pollination by the bees will help expand the crop. Carsten thanked Shawn for coming before the commission.

Old Business:

Pipe for SFARC: Carsten reported to the group that he will ask the road agent if the pipe from Ferguson Waterworks can be delivered to the highway garage for storage or arrange for delivery in the spring to the conservation land.

Letter to DES: The chairman reminded the group that at the last meeting, joint with Forestry Committee, all had enthusiastically voted to supported the construction of a well designed permanent crossing under the power lines in the town forest. He read the letter our fire chief has sent to the N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) supporting the construction of this crossing as well. Carsten then read the letter he has drafted and asked for input from the members for any changes or corrections. Some suggestions were made and agreed upon. He also informed the members that he has requested that the power company also send the DES a letter of support. He will remind them that "time is of the essence". This letter needs to be presented to the Planning Board (PB) at their next meeting

on Thursday, January 12th. A motion was made by Allan, seconded by Dave to allow Carsten to sign the letter on behalf of the ConCom once the letter is amended. The motion passed with Carsten abstaining.

Brush Hogging: Carsten informed the members that he spent 8 hours brush hogging in the SFARC property including the entire corner field, apple orchard, much of the blueberry field, perimeter of the northern most hay field, down to the Back Road, up to the parking area and cleared the brush up to the drainage swale area. As per the previously decided amount of 50% reimbursement cost (\$25.00 per hour) to rent heavy equipment (6/6/2016 minutes), Patty made a motion, seconded by Dave to reimburse Carsten for 8 hours @ \$25.00/hour for a total of \$200.00. The motion passed with Carsten abstaining. Carsten reminded the public that there will be blueberries on the SFARC property this coming year. Also he stated the ConCom will be grafting 30 trees this year to increase the orchard. Bobby noted he has 30 root stocks started. Carsten mentioned he will try before the next meeting to check to see if the state nursery is offering conifers (Christmas tree stock) in bundles of 50-100 again.

Adjournment: At 8:15 P.M. a motion was made by David, seconded by Allan to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Amended/Approved on April 6, 2017 by majority of the Commission

MINUTES PREPARED BY MARY ANN DISTEFANO

Conservation Commission Clerk