CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: August 24, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brett St. Clair, Drew Groves, Darlene Jarvis, Mel Gendron, George Holt, Ron Jarvis, Stan Sowle
Alternates Present: Matt Lavey, Margaret Watkins
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
Alternates Absent: None
Also in attendance were Selectman Robert Martel and Planning Board Chair Ken Swayze

The purpose of this meeting was to develop recommendations for the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen for the use and oversight of a 69-acre open space set-aside out of a 22-lot subdivision, referred to as “Overlook Estates”, located off of Grapevine Road.

George Holt, Commission member and Vice Chair of the Planning Board, provided the Commission with a map of the area showing the two areas to be retained as open space, Area A consisting of 60.86 acres and adjacent to the Bela Brook Conservation Area (BBCA) and Area B consisting of 8.08 acres, not contiguous with the BBCA. George explained the rather complex process which the subdivision must negotiate to obtain the necessary approvals. Planning Board Chair, Ken Swayze, described the role the Planning Board plays and its authority to determine the uses allowed in the open space. Ken stressed the importance of gathering input from the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen but that the final decision rested with the Planning Board.

Brett St. Clair proposed that the “open space” be included in the Bela Brook Conservation Area (BBCA) and its management be assigned to the Conservation Commission. He suggested that if the Commission is assigned management responsibility for Area A that it also accepts management of the smaller tract, Area B. Brett stated that the permitted uses on the open space areas should be consistent with those in the BBCA.

George Holt provided the Commission with copies of the open space deed with his edits. George omitted several paragraphs including references to a stewardship plan. Margaret Watkins also suggested a number of changes to the deed including wording to rule out any subdivision of the open space, to ensure that a licensed forester be used in a timber harvest, etc. She asked that monuments be set to mark the open space areas. Ron Jarvis suggested that “non-motorized” be added to the types of recreation allowed.

It was suggested that the final wording of the deeds for the “open space” parcels will need to be reviewed by town counsel. In addition, the Department of Environmental Services should be contacted.
to ensure that the permitted uses specified in the deed are consistent with the conditions outlined by the Department.

George Holt asked if Commission members present supported the changes suggested to the open space deeds. Members present voted in favor of the changes in content. George Holt and Margaret Watkins volunteered to work with the Planning Board on the final deed language.

Brett St. Clair and George Holt will meet with the Selectmen at their Thursday, August 25, 2016 meeting to present the Conservation Commission’s recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Snowmobile trail in Kimball Pond Conservation Area

Drew Groves reported on his work with the Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club to relocate a section of the trail. Drew and Club member Mark Dube had planned to check out possible routes through the Great Meadows but Mark was unable to make the meeting. Drew expects the Club to contact him to reschedule.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A notice was received from Eversource regarding their intent to trim along the scenic roads in Dunbarton. Brett suggested that the required public hearing be scheduled for September 14, 2016, the date of the Commission’s next regular meeting.

NEXT MEETING: September 14, 2016, 7:30 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis