

Lebanon Conservation and Agriculture Commission
Regular Meeting, 5/9/16
Minutes

Call to order at 4:32 pm by Marc Lang.

Members present: Marc Lang, Howard Wayland , Jan Fitter, Paul Trubey, Jon Slate, Keith Laporte, Alton Blodgett, Oliver Manning, Emery Gluck.

Members absent: Toni Willard, Brad Wieczorek.

Also present: Town Planner Phil Chester, Meredith Metcalf, Kip Kolesinskas, Jeff Withey.

Jeff Withey of Goshen Hill Road expressed concern about spillage of liquid manure from Cushman trucks on the road. He supports agriculture, but stated that this spring the spillage has been unusually great and is causing problems for residents and, possibly, Pease Brook and surface water quality. Jim Smith responded to Jeff's first e-mail, but the problem continues, and Jim failed to respond to his second e-mail. Jeff will provide copies of his correspondence to Phil and Marc, who will pursue resolution with Jim.

Meredith and Kip presented information on analysis of water resources. Meredith has a degree in hydrology and is employed at ECSU. She conducted the town-wide well analysis of 2015, which found high levels of arsenic, exceeding drinking standards, in well water in an area of the town. She explained study methods and that considerable further work is needed to investigate the source and other hydrologic details. Kip is a soil scientist consulting with NRCS on the study of water quantity/quality. He explained that regional conservation and innovation grants are available, and that a program offering free audits of water use and help with management is available to farmers.

The commission is interested in looking further into partnering on a town-wide water quantity/quality study.

A motion was made (JF) to recommend that the selectmen urge the Uncas Health District to require arsenic testing of wells prior both to a new-home certificate of occupancy and to resale of an existing home. Seconded (EG) and passed unanimously.

Discussion of loss of stream canopy resulting from logging operations. Consensus of the commission that we should urge the PZC to look into the potential for riparian corridor overlay zoning.

Motion (HW) to approve minutes of March 7 meeting, seconded (AB) and approved with the correction that Brad and Jon were present at the meeting.

Motion (JS) to adjourn at 6:20 p.m., seconded (AB) and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Fitter, Sec'y