

Lebanon Conservation and Agriculture Commission
Regular Meeting, 11/2/15
Minutes

Call to order, 4:30 p.m., by Marc Lang.

Members present: Marc Lang, Jan Fitter, Howard Wayland , Alton Blodgett, Oliver Manning, Paul Trubey, Jon Slate, Toni Willard (4:45), Emery Gluck

Member absent: Keith Laporte

Also present: Town Planner Phil Chester

Oliver appointed acting alternate.

Motion to approve minutes of 9/14/15 meeting; seconded and approved unanimously, with Alton abstaining. October meeting was canceled.

The owners of a forest property (15-A) approached the town about preservation. The property has high resource value. Phil let DEEP know about it. They expressed interest, and Phil submitted an application. DEEP review will take a couple of months. We will rate the property if it becomes clear that town funds might be needed.

The commission reviewed and approved of the near-final draft of the conservation newsletter.

Phil updated on current projects. Two are stalled for the time being; the rest are progressing, with easements from CFT pending for some. Some appraisals need to be redone because they have passed the one-year limit. The outlay for Leone was approved at Town Meeting, and DEEP-Liebman will close on Friday.

Phil outlined the ag. viability grant application, which will include the Farmers Market, newsletter, appraisals, etc.

Ledge Light Health District has formed a New London County Farmers Market Association and received a \$100K grant to promote farmers markets in the county. The commission agreed that Phil should attend a 11/19/15 meeting to see how Lebanon's Farmers Market can benefit.

The commission discussed holding an education session in 2016 about the town's 10-year commitment to land preservation. Phil said he would put together a power point presentation for review.

It's time to do yearly monitoring of town-held easement properties – Rechlin, three former Anderson parcels, and Fisher. Marc will set up monitoring parties.

We discussed next steps in restoration of 5-mile Rock.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Fitter, Sec'y