

Lebanon Conservation and Agriculture Commission
Regular meeting, 7/7/14
Minutes

Call to order, 4:34 p.m. by Marc Lang.

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

Members absent: Howard Wayland, Alyn Stober

Also present: Town Planner Phil Chester, Bill Ingalls, Frank Himmelstein, Sara Labowe, Joyce Okonuk

Frank spoke about beaver activity that repeatedly blocks the culvert pipe on North Street, flooding preserved farmland on the Himmelstein and Randall farms. Joyce observed that repairing resulting road washouts and pulling the grate to clean it are a very frequent headache for Town Public Works. Concern was expressed about siltation in the wetland and in Exeter Brook when the grate is pulled or water goes over the road. Possible remedies were discussed. Consensus that the best long-term solution would be to install an apparatus that maintains water level without attracting beaver activity. DEEP uses them. Joyce will look into what PZC and IWC will require in terms of a plan and engineer involvement. Emery will look into whether a plan might be available from DEEP. In the meantime, the grate needs to be cleaned.

Motion (OM) to approve minutes of 6/2/14 meeting; seconded (JS) and approved unanimously.

Motion (JF) to recommend that the Board of Selectmen request an Open Space outlay of \$75,000 at Town Meeting; \$25 K is for the Town's match for the USDA grant for preservation of the John Drum farm; \$50K is to have available for soft costs (surveys, appraisals, etc.), which have been increasing as the State Dept. of Ag. encourages greater involvement on the Town's part; seconded (JS) and passed unanimously.

Phil reports that an outfit that grows vegetables in pressurized greenhouses is investigating possible locations in the area, and State Ag. Celebration will be on the Green, Sept. 20.

Annual conservation newsletter due by October. Bill has drafted an article about JT.

Phil has received agreement from NU for Commons Hill Trail use, with no renewal needed. Trail work completed. No problems on Five-Mile Rock trail.

Motion (multiple) to adjourn; seconded (multiple); unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Fitter, Ass't Chair/Sec'y