

Lebanon Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting, 1/4/10
Minutes

Call to order, 4:34 p.m.

Members present: Keith Laporte, Marc Lang, Howard Wayland, Jan Fitter, Jon Slate, Emery Gluck, David Scata, Alton Blodgett

Members absent: Toni Willard.

Also present: Town Planner Phil Chester

Motion to approve minutes of 12/7/09 regular meeting; seconded and passed unanimously.

No audience present.

Phil's application for the Agriculture Viability grant was successful. The Town is awarded \$47,000 and needs to accept it at Town Meeting. It can be used for surveys and appraisals, farmer's market assistance, planning studies, POCD tasks, and the like.

Phil reported that the owners of properties 09-K and 09-L, and their family members, met with Jay Dipple. All are very committed to having 09-K enter the PDR program, and the process is underway. Parcel 09-L is not a PDR candidate, and plans for its future are undetermined.

In case of need, motion to recommend payment for two appraisals from open space fund outlay; seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion of Scanlon farm PDR process. To date the ConsCom has had no involvement. Motion to ask the Town Planner to speak to Connecticut Farmland Trust about any interest in participating in this matter; seconded and passed unanimously.

The Town Planner received a complaint from a neighbor about activity in a conservation easement. The complaint claims removal and burning of trees and brush. The owner says the activity is preparation for running sheep, possibly a garden, and that the ConsCom may come and look. Discussion of acceptable and unacceptable activities and implications for policy and precedent. Marc and Jan will try to schedule a visit to the site and will report back to Phil Chester. The commission must create a consistent and enforceable policy.

David suggested asking the Fire Marshall to put a check box on burn permit applications asking whether the proposed burn is in a conservation restriction area. Consensus agreement. Phil will follow up.

ConsCom budget request will be \$250. So moved and passed.

Discussion of P.A. 490 open space. How designate/administer? Specifying a zone or zones would be fabricated and unfair. Is it really an issue, given the amount of land already in 490, the 10-year limit? Phil will explore consideration for easements of a certain size.

Continuing to explore overtures regarding unprotected open space.

Motion to adjourn at 5:31, seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Fitter, Sec'y