



OFFICE OF THE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET  
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313  
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## **Conservation Commission Minutes** **Monday, January 27, 2020**

Approved: February 10, 2020

Chairman Alan Chaney called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members present: Tara Alcorn, Juan Amodei, Marijan Andacic, Kieran Meehan and Associate Member Bill Moeller

Member Absent: Leah Basbanes

Meeting held at the Dunstable Town Hall – 511 Main Street - lower level – Grange Room

### **Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2019**

Kieran made a motion to approve, as submitted, the January 13 meeting minutes. Marijan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **Bills/Payroll**

Tara made a motion to sign the payroll. Kieran 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

### **Emery Property – High Street – Discussion on Possible Purchase**

Alan explained that he and the Administrative Assistant have started gathering information in order to apply for a LAND grant for the purchase of the 48-acre Emery parcel. Alan will meet with the Community Preservation Committee on February 6 and the Board of Selectmen on February 11. He asked that any available members attend those meetings.

Alan said that Jonathan Avery from Avery Associates has not provided the estimate for the appraisal. Alan believes it could be around \$4,000. Once he receives the estimate, he will ask for a vote of the Commission to spend the money. Kieran told Alan that he should get the support of the Board of Selectmen before spending money on the appraisal since the Conservation Land Fund has only \$8,448 in the account.

Tara said that in order to gain Town Meeting support for the purchase, the Commission should take a Saturday or two, do some trail maintenance, and install the trail markers the Commission purchased. This will be added to the February 10 agenda.

### **Additional Topics Discussed Not Noted on the Agenda**

#### **Cover's Brook Wall – Road Commissioner Mike Martin**

Mr. Martin attended the meeting to discuss the repair of a wall at Cover's Brook. Mr. Martin discussed the repair with member Leah Basbanes. In Leah's email of January 25, she said, *"this work is exempt as long as the repair is to be "in kind" and shall not be larger than or expand*



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*into the wetland resource area. Any temporary impact to the wetland shall be immediately restored upon completion of the work. The wall shall resemble original conditions to the extent possible. No machinery shall be in the wetland or stream channel."* The new owner of the property has agreed to install hay bales and repair the wall at his own expense. Alan asked the Administrative Assistant to contact Leah to arrange a time when all interested parties can meet at the site before the repair.

### **Alan Starbird**

Mr. Starbird attended the meeting as he has an interest in becoming the seventh member of the Commission. He said that he has a degree in Forestry and Engineering, lives in Town and enjoys hiking our many trails. Alan explained that the Commission is charged with enforcing the Wetland Protection Act, meetings are twice a month and there are the occasional site visits. After the discussion, Juan recommended the appointment of Alan Starbird to the Conservation Commission. Kieran 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The Administrative Assistant will notify the Board of Selectmen of the Commission's decision.

### **Bee Hives – Kieran Meehan**

Kieran brought up that in the near future, he will need to separate some of his beehives. He asked members for suggestions on properties to relocate some of the hives. Alan told him that in addition to some private properties there might be agricultural parcels owned by the Conservation Commission that he may be able to use.

Kieran made a motion to close the meeting at 7:12pm. Tara 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, February 10 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann  
Administrative Assistant  
Dunstable Conservation Commission