

FINAL



**Town of Henniker
Conservation Commission Meeting
August 1, 2018
Grange**

Members Present: Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Sachie Howard, Tracy Sudhalter, Drew Major, and Ross Bennett

Recording Secretary: Kelly Hughes

Guests: Michael Lambert

1. Review and approve draft minutes from June 6, 2018

Holly motioned to approve minutes with edits. Mark Seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Mail

Following mail received: Wetlands and non-site-specific permit 2018-01741
Wetlands and non-site-specific permit 2018-01741

Comment letter for: Wetland Bureau File #2018-01709 21 Western Ave, Henniker, Tax Map/Lot#2/413; block

3. Town Forester Service Proposal

Of the proposals there is one in particular Drew Major supports, because it mentions that some of the parcels would need special attention due to the fact they are along the river and would need a different management plan. The plan really stood out as someone who had taken time to look at the parcels. It is more expensive than the other proposal, however it is a better-quality proposal. The other proposal received was very generic and mentioned consolidating the management plans, and essentially was a lump proposal that did not look at each individual parcel needs. The level of detail in the proposal Drew Major supports makes the cost of the proposal worth it to him.

Michael Lambert created the proposal that Drew Major supports and spoke to the record that there are some parcels that would not be worth harvesting, and that he can compile the data of species class and coverage for which parcels will be most profitable for timber sale if that is the priority. He also mentioned the trail networks and how he could also develop a management plan that aligns with the current trails in place.

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It is asked what the Selectman are looking for and answered with the Selectmen are looking for the current status of all the parcels and if there is value in pursuing a management plan with the parcels. The Selectmen will be making the choice bases on the Conservation Commission recommendations.

Michael Lambert mentioned the island at the new bridge has just over 2 acres and there are mature oaks, and it is a terrific piece of property that could be utilized, and the town owns it. Old mill property is begging for a new purpose and the town could put in kayak access and island access; It is not forestry but is land management and it's important to have trails match with the forestry.

It is asked if the forestry management plan includes taking out dead trees. The answer is no, there has been shift in the last 10 years and it is really important to leave dead trees. Dead standing trees are really important for certain species and have an active role in land management. There is a lot of university research that says how important it is to leave more and take less. The goal should be to make as light of a human impact as possible and focusing on sanitized cutting, which involves removing the inferior trees and leaving the healthy trees to grow and be harvested in the future when mature.

There was a question on if White Ash trees will be harvested, and at this time it is not a common enough tree with a strong enough population to harvest from, although it is worth looking into.

Mark motioned to grant Michael Lambert the contract on the grounds of how detailed his proposal was in additional to costing out and creating a plan for each individual property. Ross seconded. Motion carried 6-0

The easements for each parcel need to be reviewed and Mike Lambert is more than willing to help the commission with that. He grew up in Henniker and would love the opportunity to be the Town Forester.

Mark will be writing a draft for Selectmen's meeting on the 21st August.

4. Other Business

Tracy and Drew need to be added to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission newsletter.

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Mark had water samples for French and Kezer Pond. Kezer Pond at 4 meters the water is nice and clear. At 5 meters it is not as clear which DEES had placed a public health advisory for high concentrations. French Pond is clear all the down to the bottom and based on the historical data the bacteria is different in Kezer and French Pond. It is unique for this summer since the ponds have been rather isolated and dry. Kezer has ground water coming into the pond and those bacteria are a particular species that avoids UV light and staying lower in the pond reducing their photosynthesis activity.

With the present and historical data these are the lowest levels seen in each pond.

Sachie had an Azalea Park update regarding a grant that Azalea Park will be apply for \$253,000. Ut a letter of support the conservation committee It is through the Great Urban Parks Campaign from the National Parks Association. The application had been completed but a letter pf support from the Henniker Conservation Commission would make the application stronger. The reason Azalea Park is applying for the grant is to manage the storm water that runs into the wetlands contributing to the deteriorating water quality in the Contoocook River.

Mark motioned to provide letters of support for the Great Urban Parks Campaign grant. Drew seconded motions carried 5-0-1 (Howard).

Drew still has the sign for old mill site in his barn. He wanted it up for this weekend. Mark will see Peter Flynn in person tomorrow (Thursday) and will speak with him. Drew wanted to have it installed before the 250th Town Celebration in the parking area as a historical marker.

Ross mentioned somebody cleared old 114 and cleared it shoulder to shoulder and took out beaver dams from Elm street to Colby Crossing, and it goes through River Road and up.

Sachie motioned to adjourn. Drew seconded. Motioned carried 6-0.