

**Town of Auburn
Conservation Commission
February 4, 2020**

Members present: Jeff Porter-Chairman. Peg Donovan, Vice Chair. Diana Heaton & Richard Burnham, Members. Minutes recorded by Denise Royce.

Absent: Ed Fehrenbach & Stephanie Hanson, Members. Mark Ampuja, Alternate.

Mr. Porter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and introduced the Board members to everyone present. Mr. Porter moved on to the first item on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

**Megan Grandmaison
Dollard Road, Tax Map 9, Lot 2
Discuss Possible Conservation Easement**

At this time, Mr. Porter turned the meeting over to Ms. Grandmaison. A representative for Ms. Grandmaison began by saying that, they purchased a piece of property located on Dollard Road about a year ago. They are looking to see what they can do with the property and are looking at a few options. One thought would be to sell some of the land for a conservation easement. Mr. Porter asked how many acres did the lot consist of. It was noted that the lot contained 35 acres. Ms. Heaton asked if there was anything on the lot currently. It was noted that there was nothing on the lot at this time. A brief discussion ensued with regard to the lot and its location. Ms. Royce presented the Board members with the tax map. Mrs. Donovan asked the representative that, after they put the duplex on the lot, what was the number of acres would they be proposing to put into a conservation easement. It was stated that, they would like to keep 15 acres and sell off the rest for a conservation easement. They are just looking to see what the best option would be for the property. Mr. Porter explained that, what they would need to do is to get in touch with South East Land Trust (SELT) who the Board has worked with in the past to see if they have any interest in it and they would take a look at it and evaluate it to see what it's functional use is and if they have any interest then they would go down that path. Mr. Porter went on to say that, basically, the land owner retains ownership of the property but it will be held in a conservation easement where the land owner has the benefit of the taxation change because in perpetuity it will always be in a conservation easement. If they were to sell the property that, the conservation easement will always be in the deed and go with the land. Ms. Grandmaison asked if it would still be in their name. Ms. Donovan said yes, they would still own it but it would be in a conservation easement. A brief discussion ensued with regard to a conservation easement.

In conclusion, Mr. Porter commented that, he would get a hold of Jeremy of SELT and then would be back in touch with them to let them know what was going on.

Mrs. Donovan asked if the land was developable. Ms. Grandmaison stated that, they were working with Alden Beauchemin to see what they could do with it but in order to develop it that they would have to put a road in. Ms. Heaton noticed that there was only a 50-foot easement into the property off of Dollard Road. A brief discussion ensued with this piece of property being contiguous to the school property. The Board members reviewed an old proposal that was presented to the Planning Board for a cluster subdivision a while ago.

Mr. Porter thanked Ms. Grandmaison and her representative and stated that he would be in touch with them after he speaks with Jeremy from SELT. They also thanked the Board members for their time and would await to receive a response from the Board members.

John Gage

Discuss Carbon Emissions Reductions

At this time, Mr. Porter turned the meeting over to Mr. Gage who would speak with regard to carbon emissions reductions. Mr. Gage began by saying that he was a volunteer with a group called "Citizens Climate Lobby" which is a National no Partisan grassroots effort to get Congress to pass effective legislation to greatly reduce carbon emissions and fossil fuels. A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to carbon emissions and trying to get towns to prepare a warrant article petition to put before the Town of Auburn.

Mr. Gage presented a short video for the Board to further explain what he was proposing. Mr. Gage talked about putting a price on pollution. Mr. Gage passed out several pages of information regarding Carbon Emissions Reductions. Mr. Gage also presented the Board with a sheet with a list of resources that the Board could go and review from the website listed at the top of the page.

Mr. Porter thanked Mr. Gage for his presentation and stated that they would speak with the Board of Selectmen to see if they had any interest and, if so, he would get back to Mr. Gage to set up a meeting. Mr. Gage also thanked the Board for their time and the discussion ended.

MINUTES

Ms. Heaton moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2019 as written. Mrs. Donovan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.
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OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Porter informed the Board members that the following members and alternates terms are up in March.

- Jeff Porter, Chairman 2020
- Edward Fehrenbach, Member 2020
- Stephanie Hanson, Alternate 2020

Mr. Porter stated that he would get in touch with each person that is up for renewal to see if they were interested in remaining on the Board. Also, Mr. Porter mentioned that there was one alternate position open and that they would try to seek to fill that position. Lastly, Mr. Porter indicated that he would be happy to remain on the Board.

ADJOURN

Ms. Heaton moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burnham seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting stood adjourned at 8.08 p.m.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 47 Chester Road unless otherwise noted.