

Auburn Conservation Commission November 10, 2015 Town Hall

7:09 p.m.

Members present: Jeff Porter (chair), Peg Donovan, Rick Burnham (alternate)

Others: Mickey Rolfe

Old Business

1. Motion to accept minutes of October meeting – P. Donovan

Second – R. Burnham

Motion passed, accepted minutes

D. Smiley reminded J. Porter that R. Burnham, alternate, could not vote unless raised to full member status.

J. Porter raised R. Burnham to voting member

2. P. Donovan talked about attending the 45th annual NHACC conservation meeting in Pembroke this past week. She attended one of the intro talks entitled *Is Conservation for a World without Us?* Which talked about what would happen if humans were not present on the earth.

The major workshops she attended focused on easements. The Society for the Protection of NH Forests was one of the presenters so they may offer an alternative for Auburn when looking for easement holders. The session did state that it is not a good idea for a town to hold its own easements. The Attorney General holds responsibility if the easement holder goes out of business; that office has the responsibility to follow up. One can add land to an easement but it is next to impossible to break. Also not so easy to swap out a parcel.

3. J. Porter mentioned some proposals that the planning board approved. Old Griffin property that is falling apart on Hooksett Road, going through a level three wetland.

Random discussion about random topics followed – cutting red pine on Coleman, apparently infected so clearing – discussion about what is good for a forest.

New Business

4. Public Hearing December 1 to present the easements to the town.

There was discussion about Rolfe self- monitoring previously. Based on the information that Peg had from her seminar that is not advisable. J. Porter will be contacting a different steward to determine the costs. Money for self- monitoring was not to exceed a certain amount. Rolfe is still not clear on how much land will be in the easement and what portion he will keep out. J. Porter wants to talk to a land trust and see what numbers come up. D. Smiley questioned whether or not this topic should still be discussed in a nonpublic session since the names of the property owners had not been publically released, J. Porter said to proceed.

Dufresne's easement will hopefully be wrapped up. The hope is to take care of the two easements simultaneously.

5. Easement Seminar

P. Donovan brought up the idea of having a seminar from the land trust about the possibility of contiguous properties (neighbors) holding a joint easement.

6. J. Porter

Mentioned he would let M. Rolfe and the commission members know if he hears anything about how the easements are progressing.

Motion to adjourn – P. Donovan

Second – R. Burnham

Meeting closes @ 7:30