

**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
**January 29, 2019**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION WORKSHOP**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Bedford Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at the Bedford Public Library Richmond Room, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Beth Evarts, Dave Gambaccini, Catherine Rombeau, Maggie Wachs, Mac McMahan and Bill Carter. Absent were James Drake, Bob MacPherson and Phil Greazzo. Also present was Karin Elmer, Planner 1

Ms. Evarts opened the meeting and had the Commission members introduce themselves.

**Review of Future Goals and Priorities:**

The Commission discussed different ways they might become more consistent in reviewing pools, sheds and other structures within the wetland setback. It was suggested that creating a list of perhaps 10 standard questions that could be given to applicants before the meeting and placed on the website might be a good way to make sure nothing is being missed from one application to another. Ms. Evarts will solicit members for their questions with a draft list to be ready for review at the next meeting.

**Pulpit Rock Grant and Forest Management Plan Update:**

Ms. Evarts explained to the Commission that there were funds left over from the Pulpit Rock Grant. The NH Trails bureau, when they came out for an inspection suggested that we apply for an extension and continue to improve the trails in the area. As such, the town contacted FORECO for some estimate for continued trail work. FORECO subsequently submitted estimates for continued expansion and improvements of trails. After review of the proposals the following action was taken;

Motion by Catherine Rombeau to approve a not to exceed amount of \$4,000 for the Red Trail Improvements, north of Indian Rock. Second by Bill Carter. All in favor.

Motion by Bill Carter to approve a not to exceed amount of \$9,000 for Yellow Trail Improvements, Old woods road to detention pond. Second by Catherine Rombeau. All in favor.

Motion by Maggie Wachs to approve a not to exceed amount of \$6,000 for Option 2, Yellow and White Trail improvements west of detention pond. All in favor.

Ms. Evarts has also spoken with Ethan Belair, State Forester, about the RFP for a Forest Stewardship plan that was issued last year. He commented that most foresters only respond to these types of proposals if you are doing a timber harvest. Since the Commission is interested in evaluating the property with respect to infestations, he suggested that it might be more helpful do to an ecological assessment of the property. Ms. Evarts will speak with FORECO to see what kind of insight they might provide for this process.

**Other Topics:**

Mrs. Wachs expressed in interest in making all the data we have collected for conservation lands more accessible, perhaps with a searchable database. Mrs. Elmer will provide all the data for Mrs. Wachs to start the project.

Chairwoman Evarts expressed an interest in assigning each member a conservation parcel to view. Each site visit would note any deficiencies of the land, such as overgrown trails, missing or fading trail markers, points of interest, do we need better parking or benches, and is there a survey plan? Once all the properties are reviewed a list of priorities would be created to determine how best to spend our funds.

Mr. Gambaccini would like a standard opening remark made at all Commission meeting reminding the public that the Conservation Commission is an adversary board only. The Conservation Commission is only authorized to review make recommendations to other Boards.

Motion by Mr. Gambaccini to adjourn at 8:02pm. Second by Mrs. Rombeau. All in favor.

*Respectively submitted,  
Karin Elmer, Planner 1*