Conservation Commission Meeting

Sharon Community Center

January 8, 2015 - DRAFT

Peg Arguimbau, Chairperson, Elizabeth McGrath, Stephen Cremer, Keevin Geller, Linda Orel  and Merideth Avery were the members present.   Members not present:  Alan Westman arrived to the meeting at 8:30pm.  The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present.

Meeting started at 8:05pm

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Brief discussion on length of term.

A question was asked if there was a by-law relating to terms? The thought was that there was none, but there should be.  There was thought that this new by-law should include the requirement of annual elections.   It was also recommended that the responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair be defined and included as well.  After further discussion Meister suggested that perhaps the above should be placed in Rules and Regulations and not a by-law.  Election should take place the first week in January.

**Motion** to have annual election each January at the first meeting.

Cremer, McGrath 6-0-0

Position of Vice Chair, Geller nominates Meredith Avery, Orel seconds

6-0-0

Position of Chair, Cremer nominates Arguimbau, Geller seconds.

6-0-0

**8:20pm** Old Business:

**Review and approval of meeting minutes dated November 20, 2014**

* AT: It is Meisters opinion that by the Spring, the lake level should be up.  Last year there was concern with Asian Clams and Fanwort which contributed to the low level of the lake this past summer.  This sentence should instead read:  Last year there was concern with Asian Clams and Fanwort. Lowering the level of the lake this past summer allowed us to address these concerns as per the State requirement.

**Motion** to accept meeting minutes of November 20, 2014 as amended.

Geller, Cremer  5-0-1

**Review and approval of Meeting Minutes December 18, 2014**

* Correct spelling of the name “Killeen”
* Page 1, 2nd paragraph beginning at 7:45pm.  In the middle of the paragraph it begins:  Other site will take longer.  Then three periods. Suggestion to identify who would like this order complete, that the word “applicant” should replace -Who.
* Page 4, at: Cedar Swamp - folks should be educated on Cedar Swamp, what a wetlands is and how it works.  Should add the following “**and its importance to the Town.**
* At: education about the lake, should be OF, not ABOUT

**Motion** to accept the December 18th meeting minutes as amended.

Cremer, Geller  4-0-2

Arguimbau suggested that Meister begin informing Commission members about what goes on with the lake.  Perhaps about 20 minutes should be dedicated at the next meeting for a presentation on a topic decided by Meister.  Topics could include such things as how the Flume house works, why and how the water is let out.  Perhaps a different topic at each meeting to update and inform Commission members.

Schedule Meister at 8:15PM at the January 22nd meeting.  Commission members should forward any questions they have for Greg prior to the meeting so that he can address.

Signatures: Resigning of Emergency Order for the Dam; Voucher

**Lake Discussion:**

Geller is concerned about the lake and what is going on and that there is no Town Official or employee who is responsible for what happens at the lake.

Geller suggested that he would like to approach the Board of Selectman to discuss the possibility of designating Meister to an official position with regards to overseeing the Lake since he is the person who currently takes care of the lake.  Not sure however if this would work as there would be overlap with his position and Meister’s work for the Commission.  Greg would prefer not to be the appointed person.

Discussion continued.  There are multiple entities/boards/committees in Town which have some responsibility of the lake.  Ideally, it would be nice to have one person who would “coordinate” and be the go to person if residents or others have questions about the Lake.  Lots of things go on including maintaining the water level, recreational activities, enforcement. With respect to enforcement, all that is being asked of the police is for them to patrol, to drive through the boat launch area a couple of times per day to ensure there are no problems.  There is concern with what will happen next summer.  Will there be monitoring at the boat launch? Meister is concerned that if there is no monitoring, then the Commission should close down the boat launch, however unpopular that may be.

The issue of jet skis was raised.  At this time there is no warrant article regarding the Jet Skis.  Meister believes it would be nice of the Selectman put it on the warrant for the next Town Meeting. The Warrant closes at the end of the month for May town meeting.  If the Commission would like to put the issue of Jet Ski’s on the warrant, there should be discussion now.   Have copies of the Jet Ski regulation which was presented and voted upon last spring.  The Commission will need to discuss and vote on, and if would like inclusion in the warrant, language should be sent to Lauren Barnes for inclusion in the warrant.

As part of discussion, should discuss the pros and cons of voting banning of Jet Skis at Town Meeting.

Communication between the Commission and the BOS was also discussed.

Geller has agreed to represent the Commission at a BOS meeting.  He would like to discuss Cooperation and Coordination between boards and Enforcement at the Lake. Geller would like the commission to vote on his representing the Commissions concerns to the BOS.

**Motion:** For Geller to present to the BOS the concerns of the Conservation Commission.

Orel, Cremer 7-0-0

Lake Management Review Committee (LMRC), McGrath updated the board on possible meeting dates: February 5th, 12th and March 12th.

Commission members agreed February 5th would be the preferred date, with February 12th as the backup. LMRC meeting will begin at 7pm, with regular Conservation meeting to begin at 8pm.

Regular meeting ended at 9.10pm

**Motion** to enter into executive session for purpose of land acquisition with the intention of adjourning after executive session.

Arguimbau - Yea; Geller - Yea; Westman - Yea;  Westman - Yea; McGrath - Yea;

Avery - Yea; Cremer - Yea;  Orel - Yea