December 14, 2019

Town Lands Committee Meeting

Public Safety Building, Rt. 9, Barrington, NH

In Attendance: Brian Lenzi, Tim Puls, Anne Melvin, Charles Thatam, Phil Boodey, Dan Ayers, AJ Dupere, Paul Panish

Meeting start time – 07:30am

Review and finalize meeting minutes from 11/09/19. Approve. All accepted.

Town Forest Discussion

* Current access is via a Class 6 road
* Clarification is needed to determine if the area is a Town Forest per state regulations
* Town will be required to commit time/resources to maintaining any structures, bridges, trails, etc. that currently exist on property.
* Some maintenance has been completed over the years.
* If the property is a Town Forest, a Warrant Article is required to commit funds for development of a Forest Management Plan. Supporting documentation, i.e. budget and scope, must be submitted by January 14, 2020.
* UNH recently conducted a study of all Town Forest in New Hampshire. AJ Dupere has offered to find report to see if there is any information on Barrington’s property.

Goodwill Property Discussion

* Finalization of Conservation Land Agreement will likely not be completed by the end of 2019.

Discussion of which properties under consideration for development of Forest Management Plan by Town Forester, Tim Nolan.

* Goodwill
* Property behind Town garage off Smoke Street.
* Motion made by AJ Dupere to recommend Goodwill and property behind Town garage for development of Forest Management Plan.
  + 2nd by Phil Boodey
  + All in favor

Discussion of Rabitat on Tamposi property

* There are several patches that total up to 50ac
* AJ to research agreement between NRCS and Town
* Efforts to be completed in the near-term
  + Mowing approximately $1,000 worst case
  + Last mowed in 2014
  + Oak and Maple sprouts (3” diameter) have been observed
* Has agreement expired?
* Is a Controlled Burn acceptable? It is legal, but the agreement may have specific stipulations. Fire Chief will need to be looped in if this is an option.

Discussion of Richardson Dam

* If Dam height is less than 6 feet, then no State requirements.
* “Dam height” is measured from highest crest of dam to low point of spillway.
* Discuss maintenance options for foot bridge, crushed culvert, and overflow spillway.

Discussion of other Town owned properties

* Review list of properties that are categorized by “To Consider for Sale” and “Recommended to Keep” and “Must Keep”
* When Town makes a property sale, some money goes back to previous owner, minus eligible Town expenditures.
* Town should consider an improved bid process for these property sales.
* Establish a Performance Bond.
* Is Town required to notify abutter(s) of sale?
* Is Town required to put sale out to bid per State regulations?
* Town Administrator has requested this committee to review property list and make recommendations for sale of 10-15 properties.
* Committee to focus on properties that are currently unoccupied.
* Auctions are an option
* Decide to split up list of properties to committee members. Members will visit and collects background information on properties.

Committee agrees to visit property behind Town Garage today for walk through and initial discussion of Forest Management Plan approach.

Meeting adjourned by consensus of the board at 9:30am