

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
February 11, 2015  
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Ms. Boice, Vice Chair at 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Boice (VC), Brooks, Butler

Staff: Willson, Ziomek

**CHAIR, DIRECTOR & WETLANDS ADM REPORTS**

No reports.

**MINUTES**

Review/approve minutes 7-9-15.

No quorum to vote.

**PERMITS/DISCUSSIONS**

**7:10 PM Discussion - Ag Com/Con Com Workshop March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Willson handed out memo with ideas for workshop. Looking for contacts to send flyer to, will email flyer to Cons Dept farmers email list, put it on our website, and issue a press release. Boice said contact Tamzen (spelling?) who runs Winter Farmers market. Butler asked if audience is just farmers or also people interested in farming. Willson anyone, it's open to the public. Ziomek said would like to the workshop be a collaborative effort by Ag Com & Con Com and be a discussion not presentation just on regs. Ag Com/Con Com have mutual interests in APRs, farming on Conservation land, etc.

Boice asked how long each speaker would present. Willson was estimating 20 minutes but the proposed speakers, Con Com/Ag Com, DEP & NRCS, just an idea. Willson did contact Catherine Skiba from DEP to come to the workshop. She is the liason between DEP and NRCS. Willson hoping Angus would present regs. Willson said Wm Levine from Ag Com said he felt farmers felt confused about what they can do and what they can't do and want clarification. Boice suggested less than an hour presentation then question and answer session. Ziomek suggested just talking about certain common situations like grazing up to stream bed, beavers, etc. Butler said runs meetings where you get folks in a room, have a quick 10 min kickoff of topic but then let them talk together generally police them but they come up with questions. His meetings are for private forest land owners, sponsored by a land trust. He thinks a group of peers works well. Ziomek would like to see chairs set up for a group discussion not authority vs listeners. Ziomek do we have an NRCS rep? Willson still looking, wondering if anyone knows someone. Ziomek NRCS rep could talk about management plans and grants. Butler said Fletcher may know.

Willson suggested we introduce the panel (DEP, NRCS, Angus, Willson) then we ask farmers what they have questions on. Write questions on a white board. Ziomek said Angus or Levine start it off. Have some scenarios in our pockets in case conversation slows. Ziomek we should have name tags. Good to put together a list of potential topics, hot topics and let the panel know.

### **7:20 PM Review/Sign Slobody Baseline Report**

Ziomek stated this part of Slobody Farm just changed hands so good time to do a baseline report. Would like Commission to take a copy home and review provide feedback to Beth and hopefully sign at your next mtg. A baseline basically is a picture in time, includes pictures, maps of existing physical conditions, wildlife, etc. Then move on to do a baseline on farm to the west along Station Rd. Brooks report doesn't discuss condition of things such as current condition of paddocks, is it well grazed and muddy or well vegetated, etc. Willson said the pictures show the current condition. Ziomek they need to work with NRCS to develop of farm management plan that tells them how to rotate grazing to least impact pastures. How to get muddy areas re-vegetated.

### **7:30 PM Fearing Brook presentation**

Willson presented draft sampling plan and final watershed map. It has a larger watershed than the Tan Brook, what's shown on the map is over 0.5 square miles. We've identified 8 sampling locations and will be sampling 4 times starting hopefully now in February. Sampling will take place during rain events, over 1 inch. Brooks asked if analyzing for hydrocarbons or metals. Willson we're analyzing for TPH but not metals.

### **Miscellaneous Untimed Items:**

- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

### **Adjournment**

**Voted** unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 8:00 PM.