

DALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

October 9, 2019

Present: Chairman James Driscoll, Camillus Cachat, Clerk Cheryl Cachat

Public: Ed Denham, Scott Shove, Mark DeMaranville, Matthew Ball, Elizabeth Newlands, Jacob Morris Siegel

Jim Driscoll called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

General Business:

1. Annual meeting with Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) to review Conservation Restriction (CR) property
 - a. Jim Driscoll opened the meeting and turned the floor over DFW.
 - b. Elizabeth started with overview and talking points
 - i. Baseline Review is complete
 - ii. Cutting Plan communications are going well
 - iii. Future plans, access concerns
 - c. Jim Driscoll stated that the study was done well and agreed communication is going much better
 - d. DFW started review of red flags in Baseline study
 - i. Parcel 2 – (Pg 82, Waypoint 20/21) tree cutting, trash near pavilion
 - i. Windsor Rod & Gun club uses. CR is open to public for passive recreation, will need to signage area marking as CR property
 - ii. Parcel 3,4 – shooting range, tree cutting (would require the District to file cutting plan)
 - i. Verbal agreement with family that farming on the CR property is allowed until the passing of Mr/Mrs Ferry & Eric Ferry
 - ii. Previously tried to have a signed agreement but the Ferrys never responded
 - iii. Remark boundary line, add watershed signs along boundary
 - iv. DFW offered a letter from them to District stating we are in violation of CR provisions to include with letter to the Ferry family
 - iii. Parcel 5,6 – (Pg 85, Waypoint 92) lawn mowed treating property as yard, tree cutting,
 - i. Send letter and add copies of pictures (137,138)
 - iv. Parcel 6 – Discussion of land swap with T. Garvey
 - i. The swap would open access to Ferry property which is landlocked
 - ii. Mr. Garvey would like to own the small triangle area with bridge which is access to his property
 - iii. Discussed difficulty of reopening CR property and trading land
 - a. Survey, appraisal, assessment, value of land must be higher than land being given
 - b. Currently the title is for a 15foot right of way
 - c. Garvey has referenced having a lease to property, not on record at Registry of Deeds
 - d. Agreement among attendees that is cost & time prohibitive to pursue a swap. A better alternative would be to purchase a right of way across property for access to Ferry lot

- e. The bridge is on our property, but it is his responsibility to maintain his right of way
 - f. Watch for when property is sold to ensure that the property is clearly marked prior to new owner
- e. Discussion of new timber harvest being planned
 - i. Main Dalton Road & near Crane Road (ST-CN41) – last time harvested 15-20 years ago
 - i. Previously went over bridge crossing a stream but now it is priority habitat under natural heritage – now best access to lot thru property to Crane Road (L. Price property) which is CR land and would require a cutting plan to be filed
 - ii. Time sensitive due to majority of timber being white ash
 - iii. New England Woodland Management (NEWM) will get in contact with L. Price regarding right of way, if he is agreeable NEWM will get in contact with Jacob at DFW to create official written request
- f. Public Access on CR land
 - i. Jim Driscoll - Positive feedback on public use of watershed area
 - ii. DFW - Currently no access (posted) to reservoir area or closer than 500 ft of road
 - i. Due to it not being an active water supply can the area be opened to public access
 - a. As long gate area and dam can be posted
 - b. Keep as walk in
 - c. Commissioners will vote on at next meeting
 - d. If approved DFW offered to take down the signs along road and post
- g. DFW – Berkshire Snowseekers
 - i. Request a copy of the annual signed agreement be sent to them
 - ii. Snowseekers maintain trails & bridges
 - i. Technically need NOI approval for bridges
 - ii. Ask Snowseekers to contact DFW
 - iii. Under the Forest Management Plan 2 routes were planned to be closed, Snowseekers were notified and agreed to close
- h. NEWM asked if they are allowed to use ATV to access property
 - i. CR Plan does allow for maintain & upkeep (page20 of CR)
 - ii. Questioned sign size, normal
- i. Cady Brook work by City of Pittsfield
 - i. Looking for notifications and changes by City of Pittsfield
 - ii. The District has not received any updates
- j. Forest Management Plan
 - i. Officially accepted as of October 3, 2018
 - ii. Plan is in place for 10 years
 - iii. If necessary, plan can amended
 - i. Example cutting volume due to ash, gypsy moth infestation
- k. Update on Crane & Bird dispute,
 - i. Unofficially an agreement has been reached
 - ii. The road is the access to CR land

Jim Driscoll motion to adjourn at 3:11pm, Cam Cachat seconded

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Cachat
Treasurer/Clerk