

DRAFT
Subject to Review, Correction and Approval

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: January 8, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brett St. Clair, Drew Groves, Darlene Jarvis, George Holt, Ron Jarvis, Stan Sowle, Margaret Watkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Also present: Patrick "Woody" Bowne, Anne Zeller, Sue Bracy, and Jennifer Oliver

MINUTES: December's minutes were accepted

OLD BUSINESS:

Plastics/Support for legislation

Woody Bowne, Dunbarton's transfer station supervisor, attended the meeting at the request of Commission members to answer questions regarding single use plastic bags and recycling in general. Woody talked at length about the complexities of disposing of over 900 tons of trash a year. He shared how the market for each material is constantly changing. Woody explained his use of the term "cost saving" since the money the town receives for material it can "sell" never offsets the costs associated with the disposal of the material. This is especially true when the material has to be sorted by hand prior to shipping. Currently glass is being shipped to Keene and the town is receiving \$35 per ton. However, every load is sorted prior to being trucked since only jars and bottles are accepted.

Woody said the transfer station does get many plastic bags. The town is presently shipping unsorted plastics (1 through 7) and receiving \$20 per ton for them. Margaret Watkins stated that clean, single use plastic bags can now be dropped off at "Curios" in the center of town. Three townspeople from the Congregational Church's "Mission Green Team" added that they are collecting clean, single use plastic bags to crochet into sleeping mats for the homeless.

Commission members discussed whether to express support in the Town warrant for legislation regarding single use plastic bags. At this point, with the wording of at least two bills still in flux at government level, members agreed to forego any expression of support.

Bela Brook Conservation Area (BBCA)/Potential new trail from Overlook Estates

George Holt used the ArcGIS application to illustrate the route walked by Commission members with Matt Hunter on Saturday, January 4th. Several members voiced reservations, most expressing some concerns regarding locating a trail through an area containing multiple deer yards as well as a porcupine den. A few members said they would like to explore the area further on their own. Members present were open to considering a trail from the public access between Lots I4-01-09 and I4-01-10 on Overlook Drive to what is thought to be Scipio Page's cellar hole. George Holt estimated that this trail would be 1600 feet in length. A final decision was postponed.

NEXT MEETING: February 12, 2020, 7:30PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis