DATE: October 9, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brett St. Clair, Drew Groves, Darlene Jarvis, George Holt, Ron Jarvis, Stan Sowle, Margaret Watkins
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MINUTES: September’s minutes were accepted

At 7:45 PM Brett St. Clair opened the public hearing on potential improvements to Guinea Road.

Under State of NH RSA 231:158, before repair, maintenance, reconstruction or paving is done to a scenic road which might involve destruction of stone walls or cutting of trees 15 inches or more in circumference (at a point 4 feet from the ground), a public hearing must be held. Dunbarton’s Conservation Commission has oversight of its designated scenic roads and is charged with holding the required public hearing.

Brett St. Clair explained that Mr. and Mrs. Crooker own a lot on Guinea Road on which they may wish to build a house. Their lot (Lot E4-02-05) is a “lot of record” which allows for it to be built upon. However, the Crooker’s road frontage currently runs along a Class VI section of Guinea Road. Before a building permit can be issued to the family, 250 feet of the lot’s frontage will need to be upgraded in addition to the length of Guinea Road starting from the existing driveway on Lot E4-02-07. The design standards for the required road improvements will be decided by the Board of Selectmen.

Eight residents attended the public hearing. A few had questions and comments.

Lee Martel expressed his concerns stating that improvements to the road could have adverse effects on the trees and their root systems and alter the appearance of the stone walls. He stated that he would favor an 18 foot travel way in hopes of keeping the character of the scenic road. Addison Chase also voiced concerns regarding the damage to the roots of trees as the width of the road is increased.

Michael Galvin was the only abutter in attendance. He had no comment regarding the potential road improvements.

Brett shared the recommendation submitted to the Selectmen by both the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. The Planning Board has suggested the travel way be 20 feet wide with 2 foot shoulders on each side. The Conservation Commission has recommended an 18 foot travel way with 2 foot shoulders, the standard applied to Gile Road (a scenic road) when it was upgraded a few years ago.

Brett asked members of the Commission for comments. Margaret Watkins said that she still favored an 18 foot travel way. Gile Road, a designated scenic road, has an 18 foot travel way, as do several other town roads, stating that scenic roads are “culturally important”. Stan Sowle said he was not adverse to a 20 foot travel way. George Holt explained that the Commission’s recommendations would include elevating the travel way at which point Stan stated that he could support the 18 foot width.
Margaret Watkins made a motion that we recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the section of Guinea Road under discussion be improved by elevating the roadway up to two feet and expanding the width to 18 feet with a 2 foot shoulder on each side for a total of 22 feet. The motion was seconded and approved. (7-0)

Brett St. Clair made a motion that we recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they work to maintain the character of the road, they don’t undercut the intent of the scenic road process by declaring trees “nuisance trees”, and they request that the land owners repair any damage done to the stone walls. The motion was seconded and approved. (7-0)

The public hearing was closed at 8:30 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

Land auction

The auction of the Baalouky lot has been cancelled once again.

Kimball Pond dam maintenance

Brett stated that he worked at the dam where he removed some of the intertwined brush in the raceway. He was not able to reach the stop logs due to the amount of debris near them.

Koerber project

The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) has received far more applications for funding than it has grant money. Most projects that are awarded grants are getting partially funded. As a result, Five Rivers Conservation Trust has asked if the Commission would consider donating another $20,000 towards the Koerber project with Five Rivers contributing $10,000 more than originally expected. Commission members were in favor of doing so.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on Conservation Commission training session

Brett reported that he, Drew Groves and Beth Dooly attended the training session on September 16th in Bow. The session, titled “The Conservation Commission: Roles and Responsibilities” was presented by NHMA’s Legal Counsel, Stephen Buckley, Esq. Brett described the training as informative.

Stone Farm trail

Brett reminded Committee members that a trail needs to be laid out on the Stone Farm. Margaret Watkins suggested that Judy Stone be contacted to ensure that the trail highlights the historic sites on the property.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Received from the Piscataquog Watershed Association – a completed monitoring report for the Kuncanowet Natural Area

NEXT MEETING: November 13, 2019, 7:30PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Darlene M. Jarvis