Bethlehem Conservation Commission

September 24, 2020

6pm

Zoom Meeting

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cheryl Jensen, Lindsay Webb, Linda Moore, Alternate Marilyn Johnson

**Absent:** Vivian Winterhoff, Nicole McGrath, Alternate Jeanne Robillard

**Public:** Barry Zitser, Chris Jensen, Margaret Gale, Gardner Kellogg

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Lindsay motioned to appoint Marilyn as a voting member for the meeting, Cheryl seconded, motion passed 3-0.

**Town Forest:**

Gardner Kellogg summarized the work that he completed on the Town Forest which included researching the deeds for property boundaries and putting up physical markers on the Town Forest lands (pins, blazes, and Town Forest medallions). He discussed and answered questions about various boundaries and corners. Gardner submitted the mylar to the County Registry of Deeds and confirmed that they received the information.

Lindsay made a motion to reimburse Gardner Kellogg for $51 out of the savings account to cover the costs associated with filing the map information with the County. Cheryl seconded, motion passed 4-0.

Linda and Lindsay reported that they walked part of the newly surveyed boundary and are looking forward to walking the rest of the boundary.

**Minutes:**

The BCC reviewed the minutes of August 13, 2020. Lindsay motioned to accept the meeting minutes, Cheryl seconded, motion passed 4-0.

**Mail:**

The BCC reviewed the mailbag

* + 8/27/2020: Letter of Deficiency from NHDES – Baker Brook Pond Dam
	+ 8/28/2020: Notice of Acceptance from NHDES – Omni Wetlands Permit
	+ 9/2/2020: Wetlands Permit Application – Granite State Landfill
	+ 9/14/2020: Notice of Acceptance from NHDES– Granite State Landfill

There was a discussion regarding the Wetlands Permit Application about the proposed “Dalton Landfill” (Granite State Landfill). Lindsay reached out to DES prior to the deadline to reserve the BCC’s right to comment on the project. Much discussion ensued about our possible steps, which could include hiring a wetlands scientist or sending DES a letter based on our past comments about this and nearby parcels.

In 2008 and 2016, the BCC wrote comments to DES in response to an alteration of terrain permit and the proposed Dragstrip. This project did not happen. The concerns that the BCC had at the time were in regards to the wetland delineation and the proximity to the Ammonoosuc River. The wetlands were not fully delineated at the time of the AoT permit and the wetland impacts increased over the course of the application and subsequent reports regarding the Dragstrip Project. The wetlands complex (possibly part of the Alder Brook Wetlands Complex) flows into the Ammonoosuc River.

The proposed Dalton Landfill will physically occur in Dalton, but it is very close to the Bethlehem town line and the road access is through Bethlehem. The Wetlands Permit indicates that 2 parcels in Bethlehem could be impacted.

Cheryl motioned to write a letter to DES expressing the BCC’s concern about the wetlands impacts on the property, referencing the wetland delineation issues that occurred on the property in the past. Linda seconded, motion passed 4-0.

Lindsay and Cheryl will work on the letter and send it to DES as soon as possible.

**Other/New Business:**

Margaret Gale expressed her interest in rejoining the BCC after a short hiatus over the summer.

Linda motioned to nominate Margaret Gale to fill her previous position on the BCC. Marilyn seconded, motion passed 4-0.

Linda will bring Margaret Gale’s name before the Selectboard for approval.

**Public Comment:**

Barry Zitser welcomed Margaret Gale’s return.

**Next Meetings:** 6pm (Location TBD or Zoom)

October 22, 2020

November 19, 2020 (please note this is the 3rd week)

Marilyn motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm, Lindsay seconded, Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Webb, Chair