Forest Committee Meeting Minutes

November 24, 2020

Present:

Chris Fish-TFC Member, Stephanie Stanton-TFC Member, Orlando Pacheco-Town Administrator, David Koonce-Conservation Agent, Tim Castner, Victoria Petracca

Call to Order

Mr. Fish called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Introduction of New Member

Stephanie Stanton was introduced as a new member of the Committee

LAND Grant Award

Mr. Pacheco advised the committee that the Town received the grant award for the 28-acre parcel owned by AUC. Mr. Koonce requested a copy of all the information as the conservation commission would be the eventual owner. Mr. Pacheco described the necessary deliverables in order for the Town to receive reimbursement and will continue to work on them with EOEA.

Potential Future Land Acquisitions

Mr. Pacheco advised that he has reached out to JCC Associates who owns about 100 acres abutting the Town Forest, approximately 34 acres of which is listed as un-developable. Map 33 Parcel 92, which is 69.66 acres does have development potential. This could be a potential future LAND Grant opportunity.

Mr. Koonce also advised that the Nashua River Watershed Association is pursuing a regional Forest Legacy Grant, which is already including other parcels adjacent to the Forest. The grant is a 75-25% match and unprotected land can be included as an applicant 25% match requirement.

Mr. Castner stated that they may be a discrepancy on the assessor maps with Map 33 Parcel 81 as it could be overlapping with New England Forestry Foundation Land. Mr. Pacheco noted that the Assessor does have it listed as a 31.1 acre parcel.

Al Futterman joined the meeting at 6:30pm. The federal designation will help our application for a Forest Legacy Grant. The minimum threshold referenced was 1000 acres so each town in the regional should look to have 150 acres designated within the application within the 11 towns. The process does take several years, 2-3 year process so we need to make sure landowners understand the commitment. NRWA just needs a point person in each town with the application submitted in July.

Next Meeting

The next Forest Committee Meeting will be December 29, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm