Town of Pelham, NH
Pelham Conservation Commission
6 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076-3723

MEETING OF 07/08/15 **APPROVED 10/14/15**

Members Present:
Karen Mackay, Louise Delehanty
Kaela Law (late), Paul Gagnon

Members Absent:
Lisa Loosigian, Paul Dadak
Mike Gendreau

Chairman Paul Gagnon brought the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

DISCUSSION #1:

Paul Gagnon will lead a discussion about the letter in opposition to the Kinder Morgan pipeline that was written by the coalition of Conservation Commissions from the towns directly affected by the pipeline.

The NH towns in the gas pipeline route have been discussing how to deal with the pipeline. Mr. Gagnon as well as Kaela Law and Paul Dadak have attended meetings of a coalition of conservation commissions from southern NH towns. These meetings have been held on Friday nights every other week for the past several months. The group has been discussing the pipeline and trying to decide a course of action to protect the towns.

The group has recently written a 4 page letter describing the impacts of the pipeline on the environment. Impacts described include air and water quality, donated conservation lands, noise level increases and wildlife habitats. This pipeline will cross numerous conservation lands. Many conservation lands have been donated or partially donated. Will people be willing to donate lands in the future if the lands can be taken out of conservation? The letter is similar to the letter written by the coalition of Selectmen. The strongest letter Mr. Gagnon has seen is from the Amherst Board of Selectmen. The letter referenced the need for the pipeline or rather the lack of need of the pipeline. Forty-two sources were sited to support the claims in the letter.

Electric bills in our area are very high. The thought of many is, electric rates would lower with the pipeline. Our current need for electricity in New England is 0.6 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day. The new pipeline is proposed to convey 2.2 billion cubic feet per day. The new proposed pipeline is almost 4 times the needed capacity for New England.

The flow of gas at present is from Nova Scotia through Maine, NH and into Dracut. They have applied for a reversal of the gas line so the gas would flow from Dracut through NH and Maine into Nova Scotia. The terminal in Nova Scotia would then export the gas to Europe.

There are two other pipelines that are expansions of existing pipelines. Both of these lines will meet the needs of New England residents without the new pipeline. No main pipelines will be split from the proposed pipeline to support NH. New Hampshire creates twice the amount of electricity needed. Half of all produced is exported out of the state. New Hampshire will not benefit from this pipeline.

Public Input:

Mr. Paddy Culbert is concerned about the noise level increases that go along with the operation of the line. He has a hearing disability he has had since he served in the military and persistent noise causes great disturbance to him. Noise level increases will cause serious problems for him.

Commission Comments:

Ms. Mackay felt most of the subject matter of the letter was reasonable and the letter was very well written. One part of the letter talking about noise, sleep disruption and psychological problems associated with noise seemed completely unreasonable. Noise complaints are understandable, but attributing psychological problems to the building of a pipeline goes too far. This portion of the letter looks like the writers are grasping at straws. There are many compelling reasons why the pipeline should not be built; causing psychological problems is not one of them. This argument weakens the position of the letter.
This letter is a final draft and no input is required. Mr. Gagnon will send a comment that some members feel this section of the letter seems unreasonable. Members may sign the letter in support or refuse to sign.
Ms. Delehanty feels that some residents may experience nervousness about the pipeline that may prevent sleep. She feels the psychological component of the letter is reasonable and that anxiety about the pipeline can build up over time and may cause some people to develop illnesses.

DISCUSSION #2:

Kaela Law will lead a discussion about ideas regarding a solar farm in Pelham.

Ms. Law was reading about the use of land fill space for the development of solar farms. Billerica has placed a solar farm on top of its capped land fill. In the June 17th NH Union Leader, a project was described in Derry, NH. The town has rented the space on their capped land fill to a solar farm. When the space in rented, the town makes money on the rent and the utility company makes money by selling the power. Mr. Gagnon thought there could be potential in town with the quantity of town buildings and roof space. The capped land fill in our town is probably not a possibility because it is privately owned. Ms. Law will research this subject and see if this type of project would be feasible.

WALK IN ITEMS:

Ms. Mackay monitored the Little Island Pond Conservation Area and LCHIP sent the town $200.00 which will be used for conservation efforts. The area must be monitored once a year.

The town received two notices for routine roadway and railway maintenance. These notices are sent for replacement of culverts under roads. The Conservation Commission does not vote on these and no one

presents them to us. One notice is for the replacement of a culvert in the Harris Pond area on Gage Hill Road. The second is nearby, just off Gage Hill Road.

We received the final papers for the Callahan and Parola purchases. The rear portion of these two parcels was purchased this spring. The parcels are located off Scenic View Drive. The purchase provides a connection between the Merriam/Cutter Conservation Area and the Gumpus Pond Area

MINUTES:

Motion: (Gagnon/Mackay) to approve the minutes of January 14, 2015.
Vote: 2-0 in favor

Motion: (Delehanty/Gagnon) to approve the minutes of May 13, 2015.
Vote: 3-0 in favor

Motion: (Delehanty/Gagnon) to approve the minutes of June 10, 2015.
Vote: 3-0 in favor

ADJOURNMENT:
Motion: (Mackay/Delehanty) to adjourn
Vote: 3-0 in favor.
Adjourned 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Mackay,
Recording Secretary