

# **Stoddard Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, Feb 26, 2020

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Town Hall

Members Present: (marked with XX)

Geoff Jones\_\_XX

Scott Semmens\_\_XX

Paul Crosby\_\_XX

Helen Tam-Semmens\_\_XX

Bob Fee\_\_XX

Margo Santoro\_\_

1. Approved minutes of Jan 22, 2020.

2. John Marien from Merrimack attended the meeting and requested to setup a Geocache earthcache at Stoddard Rocks. Geoff asked that he inform Geocache visitors to Stoddard Rocks be respectful of other visitors as well as the land by having dogs on leash or on command, to stay on trail, make low impact on the land, and take all garbage out. John agreed, adding that the Geocache community has a "cache in, garbage out" motto afterall. John Marien also 1) agreed to give us the link and/or contact info to the geocache site so we can address any concerns; 2) assured us that if problems arose from the site and we wanted it terminated, the site would be shut down immediately (within 24 hours or less).

Con Com members later voted unanimously to approve his setup of the earthcache.

2. Con Com members collectively filled out the NHACC Annual Strategic Survey.

3. Received request from Bob Winterbottom asking the Conservation Commission to support the Carbon Dividend Act. Con Com members have questions about it and would like Bob Winterbottom to attend the March meeting to answer those questions before voting whether to support the Act or not.

4. Amidst growing research that light pollution is "key bringer of insect apocalypse" as well as damaging to other wildlife such as birds during migration, the Conservation Commission is considering writing a warrant article to change existing LED street lights to reduce harm on wildlife as well as human health, and to enhance driving safety. To

achieve all that, American Medical Association in 2016 recommended that “LED lighting minimize blue-rich light”, be “properly shielded to minimize glare” and “consideration should be given to utilize the ability of LED lighting to be dimmed for off-peak time periods.”

Helen has spoken with Paul Hausmann, Account Executive of Eversource, and obtained Eversource requirement of the LED street lights. The requirement does not allow the dimming of street lights through timer or motion/heat detection of vehicles, because Eversource does not meter the energy usage of the street lights. That leaves the following mitigating solutions:

- (i) Minimize blue-rich light of the LED streetlights by lowering the correlated color temperature (CCT) of the LED. Paul Hausmann said Keene may be using 3000K CCT LED streetlights that meet AMA recommendations. Geoff said Gilsum may be using similar. We are using higher CCT lights. This solution would require the change of the entire light fixtures.
- (ii) Install shields on the LED streetlights.
- (iii) Lower the wattage(intensity) of the LED streetlights if possible.
- (iv) Remove certain streetlights that are not that necessary, and deemed causing more harm than good.

Paul Hausmann said that (iv) would be the cheapest and easiest to do. He said I need to talk with Peter Salvitti, owner of Efficient LED Lighting Systems, the contractor hired by Stoddard to select and oversee the installation of the LED streetlights at the time.

Paul Hausmann also said that Eversource still maintains the old style high pressure sodium streetlight (looks yellow), but not the metal halide kind.

Helen is in the process of contacting Peter Salvitti to obtain the specifications of the LED streetlights in Stoddard, so as to look into (i) and (iii) solutions above.

Geoff is developing a fact sheet on the subject. He has also purchased a Sky Quality Meter to measure relative light pollution.

5. SPNHF conservation easement monitoring for 2019 shows no problem.

6. Discussed about some big white pines along the shore on Deadbrook Road being cut down without permit. Geoff said if the trees are close to property and threaten the property, no permit is needed to cut down the trees. The forester who cuts the trees can determine whether the trees threaten property or not.

7. Discussed the status of HB 1571 and SB 588.
8. Bob Fee will check on the Con Com's non-profit registration number, which is needed for the Con Com to purchase the annual licence for the Esri ArcGIS,
9. Next scheduled meeting on March 25, 2020, 7:30 at the town hall.