

8/10/22

7:00pm

Large Hall, 2 Town Hall Rd

TOWN OF NEWTON, Newton Conservation Commission

Meeting Started at 7:05: Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Chairperson/Alicia Geilen, Lorene Melvin, Sandy Estabrook, Trisha McCarthy and Selectman Charles Melvin

Guests were abutters to the Busch Farm: Gerard Davis, Eric & Andrea Bowden, Steve Morrison, Sean Lundy

BUSCH FARM: Discussed ATV and OHRV regulations. Residents discussed the following:

Jessica: talked about the wildlife on the property she has seen including bear, fox, deer and fawns. OHRV may cause the wildlife to vacate the property. She also mentioned a beaver problem on the property (near Nordic Woods).

Brad: disliked the spray paint, duct tape and caution tape and said it made the area look awful. Many residents in the audience agreed with him.

Gerard: was very vocal about the metal signs and bolts sticking out as well as logs placed in areas that could be dangerous. He also stated that the way the trails are connected is very dangerous.

Sean: wanted to know what is allowed for operation of an HORV (for instance without a license)

Tim: said he really didn't want to see ATV's using the property

Multiple Residents: said the trails should be cleaner. Also mentioned that a lot of out of towners are using the property. It was stated that con com should remove tape and not do anything more. A kiosk was brought up and the general feeling was the residents didn't want one because that would encourage more use of the property

Conservation members addressed the concerns above: Will remove caution tape and logs. We stated, we can't put up signs that say residents only, unless we write a warrant article for next year and the residents will decide. Alicia stated she will remove the caution tape. Jessica asked if they could help remove it and Alicia responded "absolutely" that would be great. Gerard stated, "con com put up the tape and the con com should be the ones removing the tape". It became somewhat of a heated argument and Alicia reminded the residents that we are all volunteers trying to do a good thing for the town. Things settled down a bit after that. Licensing is not controlled by the conservation commission and therefore must follow the rules for OHRV's.

Motion: Lorene Melvin bought more supplies for Busch farm for a total of \$63.92. Geilen motioned to pay Lorene, second by Charlie, all in favor.

Motion: Alicia submitted invoices for \$22.99 for supplies for Busch Farm Workday. Sandy motioned to pay Alicia, second by Lorene, all in favor.

Geilen: motion to adjourn at 9:00pm, second by L. Melvin, all in favor.

Respectfully, Trisha McCarthy, Secretary