

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes June 12, 2024

Present: Scott Travers, Gregg Thibodeau, Ryanne Schoonover (Select Board Representative) Robin Ungeheuer, Rob Traver, Janet Slocum, Jennifer Bland

Absent: Mark Girard, Lisa Hyatt

Public Attendance: Steve Murray

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Review/approve minutes of May 8, 2024 - The meeting minutes from 05/08 were reviewed and a motion was made by ST to approve seconded by RS. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Topics – None

Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**

- Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,910.94 (+ \$0.32 interest)
- Conservation Land Use Fund \$21,048.41 (+ \$1.73 interest)
- Turbidity meter purchase – purchase pending receipt of an invoice or other process. [Gregg is working with Charlotte.](#)
- The approved Orchard Hill Center donation was sent by town and the expense should appear on our next statement.

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**

- Intents to Cut
 - 24-001-06 - Jenisen, map 233-20 and 21, Stebens Road (Moddy Rd); 193-acre lot, 37.5 acre cut; 94 MBF cut, 180 tons of pulpwood; 120 cords of firewood, Bascom responsible for cut
 - 24-001-07 – Bassinne, map 236-8, 239-6, 239-5, River Road; 220-acre lot, 110 acre cut; 432 MBF cut, 3975 tons pulp, 100 cords of firewood, Granite State Forestry Services; conservation analysis completed. - This was reviewed and it was noted that they added to the cut. [GT will follow up with Charlotte and Peter Rhodes.](#)
- Permits/complaints
 - Clark Driveway Request for Acworth Halls Pond Road/Borough Road.
 - Clark wants to clear cut his lot in Charlestown that abuts our Acworth and Unity town lines; Charlestown approved a driveway and building permit but then after consulting with their attorneys they revoked both. The roads in this area have not been maintained. Clark submitted a driveway permit to the Acworth planning board to access his driveway through our town. GT conducted a conservation assessment and there is a large wetland that goes through that area. Halls Pond Road travels through this wetland area. DES has designated this wetland area as a “priority resource area”. NH Fish and Game also lists the area as a high ranked wildlife area. Based on our assessment GT recommended that from a conservation point of view this road should not be developed and left in its current state.
- South Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – update (Gregg, Mark, Rob)
 - County forester, Dode Gladders walked the property with Gregg and Rob, Forester findings and recommendations were similar with our forester, Jeff Snitkin. MG is researching the effort it will take to improve approximately 200 yards of the Class VI road for the harvest. The town can improve the road for access to the town owned land.
- Land Surveys - Crescent Lake (map 201, lots 107 and 108) – letter drafted, and it was sent, waiting for a response. IF he does not respond by end of August, ConCom will look for another Surveyor
- Easement Monitoring

- Pan-Northern Pierce Brook SPNHF (Jen) – meet-and-greet introductory session. [JB spoke with Nick Osgood, and he is going to get back to JB with dates to meet.](#)
 - Update Prouty/Honey Brook Property - Map 250 lot 2 - [GT is waiting for the State to respond.](#)
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Shoreland Permit Issues –
 - River Road beaver issue – GT explained and there was no issue with Highway department and the removal of the beaver dam at the Allen Rd bridge,
 - Crescent Lake flood issue. 164 Crescent Lake Road. This home is for sale and the material from the driveway flooding from July 2021 and July 2023 is still in the lake. New (in contract) homeowners have reached out to an engineer to assess the culverts and material in the lake,
 - Keyes Hollow HVA actions (Rob, Gregg, Mark) – RT engaged DES. DES identified the area as a designated priority resource area– the failed culverts are degrading the wetlands and therefore the effort might be eligible for state mitigation funding. In addition, the town can designate this area as a prime wetlands, we need to investigate the meaning of prime wetlands and how it will impact and benefit the town. [JS and RT are going to investigate.](#)

Communications, Training and Outreach

- **Community Outreach**
 - Newsletter - June newsletter article was published and at our next meeting we will look at topics and who will work on our Sept article.
 - Other educational topics – iNaturalist; Climate change impacts; shoreland and wetland restrictions/limitations/requirements, property conservation options, Conservation plan – town hall review (summer 2024); fall survey/questionnaire; publish Mar 2025
 - Library Conservation Corner (picture) - Sue at library has made a corner for us and RT sent a picture to ConCom showing what Sue did at the library. [RT will follow-up to see if the library will announce this new section in their next town newsletter article. Concom will also make a reference to the new section in our next newsletter article.](#)
 - Volunteer Field Events – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
- **Next Meeting** – 10 July 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Conservation Commission Members:

- Jennifer Bland (co-chair)
- Gregg Thibodeau (co-chair)
- Rynne Schoonover, (Select Board rep.)
- Mark Girard
- Scott Travers
- Janet Slocum
- Rob Traver
- Robin Ungeheuer (alt)
- Lisa Hyatt (alt)

Contact information:

- Webpage <https://www.acworthnh.net/conservation-commission>
- E-mail acworthconservation@gmail.com
- Meeting 7:00 p.m. every 2nd Wednesday of month at the Town Hall
- Mail 13 Town Hall Rd., P.O. Box 37, Acworth, NH 03601, Attention: Conservation Commission
- Phone 603-835-6879 (town office)