

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes September 14, 2022

Membership Attendance: Terry Mattson, Scott Travers, Kathi Brandt, Mark Girard, Gregg Thibodeau, Janet Slocum
Others: Robin Westcott-Ungeheuer, Vanessa Keith (Unity ConCom)

Motion made by MG and 2nd by ST to approve the minutes of August 10, 2022. Passed.

Public

- Vanessa Keith (Unity ConCom) expressed her conservation and erosion concern over the clear-cutting harvest that is being conducted on a Charlestown property (222-001), which boards both Unity and Acworth.
- **Action Item:** GT and ST to conduct a site visit to determine risks to conservation, wildlife or our habitats.

Forestry, Town Forests & Other Conservation

- New Town Forester – Jeff Snitkin
 - **Action Item:** GT to contact Jeff and ask that he put together a cost/invoice to update the town forest plan.
 - **Action Item:** MG to sketch plan information for Jeff.
- Surveyor for Possible New Town Forest Parcels Map (Map 201, 107 and 108)
 - Estimate from Travis Royce/Chris Paton - \$7000-\$7500 (ST)
 - Estimate from Dombrowski, \$5000-\$7000. Conduct research this summer & conduct the survey work fall/winter (GT)
 - D'ibernado surveyors indicating that they could not do anything with us until next 2023. (Jennifer)
 - Eric Peabody requested deeds to do an accurate estimate
 - **Action Item:** KB to provide deed references to Eric.

Finance-Budget

- **Available Funds**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,904.99 (+\$0.03 interest)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund: \$17,445.21 (+\$1,600 use tax change; \$0.13 interest)

Complaints, Concerns & Other Actions

- Dodge Hollow Next Steps
 - **Action Item:** GT to complete recreational plan for the entrance to Dodge Hollow.
 - **Action Item:** GT to complete notification to abutters and a review with the abutters to obtain their support.
- Map 201 Lot 77 - 160 Crescent Lake Road - Possible Build Violation – No violations were identified.
 - **Action Item:** GT to respond to the complainant.
- Dodge Hollow Water Turbidity Concern – GT observed very clouded water conditions on 2 separate occasions, which contrasted with the water in Cold River which Dodge Brook feeds into. **Action Item:** GT to send pictures and concern to Lempster ConCom.

Intents to Cut - None to review

Town Owned Land Recommendations

- **Action Item:** GT to send BoS final determination of all remaining town owned properties.
- **Map 250 lot 2** – (Gregg) Work NH Division of Forest and Lands, possibly adding the property into Honey Brook State Park. NH is sending out an assessor to review the property. **Action Item:** Follow-up with Charlotte to determine if there is any tax or land value implications. (Gregg)
- **Map 230 lot 3-Ball** – Complete conservation land assessment form (Jennifer)
- **Map 222-21, 234-19 and 234-18** – Concom map assessment in-progress. (Janet to review with commission)
- **Map 236-10-Roberts/River Rd** – Property to be held and not sold
- **Recommend sale to abutters** – Map 210-20.1 (Cold Pond, 2.1 acres, land locked); map 226-1 (River Road, 0.3 acres, land locked)

Easement Monitoring & Other Monitoring

- All 2022 monitoring due NLT 28 Nov 2022.
- NH DES Cold River Release Monitoring & training offer
 - **Action Item:** GT to coordinate a November visit and overview from DES and invite Crescent Lake Association and Cold River Advisory.
- Crescent Lake Association – Water quality monitoring (see handout)
- “Let’s Be Clear” Campaign Overview
 - **Action Item:** TM to coordinate a December presentation from the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) representatives.

Outreach, Communications & Volunteer Events

- Crescent Lake Association and Unity Conservation Commission – Stan Rastallis is a member of both, which will assist us if we coordinate with Stan for matters that concern Crescent Lake, Unity, and Acworth.
- Topic was raised by TM that we should consider a broader outreach on our initiatives so that we can start to have a broader conservation impact. There was general agreement. Current goal now is to begin the creation of our Conservation Plan so that we can start to address prioritized conservation topics and create effective outreach efforts for those topics.
- **Action Item:** GT to lead the effort at our next meeting to begin the process again to create our town’s conservation plan.
- Cold River Advisory (CRA) – They meet 3rd Thursday. Goal would be to re-establish information flow between our groups. At a minimum we would like to receive meeting minutes and their annual report. (TBD Resource)
- Develop volunteer program activities
 - Keyes Hollow Nature Trail Cleanup - On hold until 2023.
 - Town owned Crescent Lake property boundary marking – Pending survey; likely 2023 effort.
- Develop educational series
 - iNaturalist Rollout – **Action Item:** GT to produce newsletter and Facebook posts.
 - Effects of Climate Change and What You Can Do Presentation – **Action Item:** GT to create draft presentation and obtain input from UNH Cooperative Extension.
 - Share Wild Fowl Habitat Practices - **Action Item:** Jen to attempt to obtain best practices from Fed Ernst.

Other business

- Conservation Commission Bylaws Review – **Action Item:** GT to update bylaws for a final review at our October meeting.
- **Commission Member Education Opportunity** – Endangered and invasive species review
 - Roster
 - Kathi Brandt Oct brown thrasher (end) and honeysuckle (inv)
 - Jennifer Bland Nov TBD
 - Janet Slocum Dec 4 bumble bees and bittersweet
 - Mark Girard Jan New England Cottontail

Next Meeting – 12 October 2022