

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes January 10, 2024

Present: Gregg Thibodeau, Rob Traver, Robin Ungeheuer, Mark Girard

Absent: Jennifer Bland, Kathi Bradt, Scott Travers, Janet Slocum

Public: None

Meeting opened 7:07pm.

Meeting minutes of December 13, 2023, not reviewed. To be reviewed at the February meeting.

Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**

- Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,909.33 (+ \$0.62 interest over 2 months)
- Conservation Land Use Fund \$21,264.75 (+ \$4,750 Use Tax + \$3.15 interest)
- Final budget submitted
 - We reviewed the changes which we discussed at our last meeting.
 - Changes: (1) indent the “Crescent Lake Host Program” line item to illustrate that it is part of the budget line item 4619. (2) correct spelling “boad” to “boat”.

Line Items	Description	2023 Amt (\$)	2024 Amt (\$)
4611	Conservation Commission	\$14,102	\$14,710
4619	Conservation Preservation		
	Crescent Lake Host Program	\$3,000	\$3,000
Totals		\$17,102	\$17,710

- It was noted that the Lake Host program is paid from the town’s budget and not our ConCom funds. This was arranged years ago.
- Turbidity meter options
 - We reviewed examples how/why our Concom would use this tool.
 1. On-Demand Incidents – measures of real time/timely, in-progress impairments.
 2. Measures of waterbodies that are outside of the DES scope of designated waterways.
 3. It was agreed that renting equipment would not support the on-demand need that we have.
 - Pricing is very dependent on the precision of the equipment. It was agreed that we want a reputable manufacturer and a higher level of precision.
 - We have budgeted \$1300 but we have additional funds that could be leveraged if needed.
 - **Action Item:** Robin to look at the 80th percentile price range for our purchase. To be reviewed at our next meeting.
 - We agreed that once we start owning equipment/tools that we will need proper storage, access to the equipment and we will need to maintain the equipment.

- **Conservation Plan**

- Summary (Kathi) – deferred a review of this until our next meeting.
- Geology, Soils final review (Robin)
 - The writeup is ready to add to the conservation plan.
 - We also discussed the need for “citing” or acknowledging external documents and authors.
 - It was agreed that we have an obligation to acknowledge any work that our plan references.
 - **Action Item:** Authors of our conservation plan that leveraged external sources will use one of the following 2 methods to acknowledge those works.
 1. Cite the work using the following fields:
 - Author(s).
 - Year.
 - Title.
 - Publisher. (Omit the publisher if same as the author)
 - URL hyperlink

2. Add a sentence each of our sections of work acknowledging the source, e.g.
 - “This section of our conservation plan greatly appreciates and acknowledges the following sources of information in our plan:
 - Author, Year, Title, Publisher, URL hyperlink”
 - Rare, Endangered and Invasive Species final review (Rob)
 - Rob posted changes he received from Robin.
 - Rob has already included acknowledgements for his sources.
 - This section is ready to be incorporated into our plan.
 - High Value Area Map and Descriptions (Janet) – differed this review until our next meeting.
 - Develop specific goals for the 5 priority high value areas (all) – differed until our next meeting.
 - Create goals for each of the 5 HVA’s
 - Determine which HVA’s and goals will be addressed in 2024
 - Develop an outreach program for each goal to be addressed in 2024
 - Climate Change (Gregg)
 - Gregg has begun research utilizing USDA Forestry with support from Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS)
 - Climate Risk Viewer (USDA FS) - Climate Exposure and Vulnerability Map can provide us with regional impacts and also a library of adaptation strategies and approaches.
 - Proper Hazardous Material Handling
 - We agreed that this topic is relevant and should be a part of our Conservation Plan.
 - **Action Item:** Rob to work with Charlie from our Transfer Station and leverage other towns policies and procedures to create our own that will be added to our Conservation Plan.
 - **Action Item:** Gregg to confirm our direction with the Select Board.
- **Bylaws** – No changes

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**
 - Intents to Cut - None
 - Building, excavation, and other permits - None
 - South Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – Forester inventory is in progress; establish goals is next; **Action Item:** Gregg to include Rob in the meeting with our forester (Jeff).
 - Land Surveys - Crescent Lake (map 201, lots 107 and 108) – awaiting additional survey follow-on work
 - Easement Monitoring
 - Clark Properties (Scott) LCIP - complete, sent and posted
 - Keyes Hollow/Gove Road SPNHF (Gregg) – complete and posted
 - South Acworth Forest Town (Mark) – complete and posted
 - 5 Points, Roy Sugar House, Moody/Bascom LCIP (Jen) – Jen to post reports to LCIP and our shared drive. Gregg to add in any applicable intents to cut.
 - Pan-Northern Pierce Brook SPNHF (Jen) – Jen to post reports to LCIP and our shared drive. Gregg to add in any applicable intents to cut.
 1. Meet-and-greet introductory session with the new owner
 - Update Prouty/Honey Brook Property - Map 250 lot 2 – Pending final review with Select Board
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Shoreland Permit Issues – Final verdict Map 201, Lot 106 Fong. Violation of RSA 483-B:9 (V) confirmed.
 - Crescent Lake Water Quality Group Update

Communications, Training and Outreach

- **Training-Education**
 - Lake Sunapee Protective Association – Road Salt Presentation – 24 Jan 3-5pm (in-person or Zoom)
 - Campbell Road property owner outreach (Gregg)
 - UNH Covert Training (Gregg) - <https://extension.unh.edu/blog/2024/01/application-period-opens-2024-nh-coverts-project-training>

- **Community Outreach**
 - Use of the Newsletter – we agreed that we should start leveraging the town’s newsletter more frequently. Rob to consider an article for Hazardous Material Handling.
 - Develop Outreach Plan (Gregg) – Outreach plan was reviewed in December and will be leveraged with our HVA goal development.
 - Volunteer Field Events – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
 - Other educational topics – Climate change impacts; shoreland and wetland restrictions/limitations/requirements, property conservation options, conservation plan

- **Next Meeting** – 13 February 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall. (rescheduled to Tues, 13th to deconflict with Valentines Day)

Meeting closed at 8:18pm.

Conservation Commission Members:

- Jennifer Bland
- Gregg Thibodeau
- Kathi Bradt, Select Board Rep
- Mark Girard
- Scott Travers
- Janet Slocum
- Rob Traver
- Robin Ungeheuer (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)