

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes February 16, 2022

Attendees:

Members Present: Gregg Thibodeau, Mark Girard, Jim Jennison, Scott Travers

Members Not Present: Beverly Buxton, Jennifer Bland

Others Present: Kathi Brandt

Minutes of December 08, 2021 – *Reviewed and approved.*

Finance-Budget

- **Available Funds**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,904.76 (+\$0.06 interest only)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund: \$12,129.41 (+\$0.06 interest & \$8,167.10 2021 Current Use Changes)
- **Discussion:** In December a question was raised if our committee funding allocations must be returned to the general fund at the end of the calendar year if they are not expended. Kathi and I confirmed that they do not.
- **Budget:** *Gregg to send out the revised final budget to the commission members.*
- **Projector Update** *(see e-mail sent on 6 Jan) – Mark will work on getting the projector via a corporate donation.*

Complaints, Concerns & Other Actions

- Keyes Hollow Road Update– No change
 - **Action Required:** *Gregg to retrieve north camera.* Lock issue on the south camera resolved.
- Cold Pond Road – Sanville possible unapproved crossing/construction on Copeland Brook. Map 210, Lot 37/38. See DES letter to Sanville, dtd Feb 2, 2022. *(See DES mail sent on 2 Feb)*
- Crescent Lake Boundary Intrusions– Map 201 lot 108 intrusions from 101 and 103; 2 visits 40 days apart with no change. *2022 Actions: (1) schedule survey of these properties. (2) Note from BoS to landowners and our plan in 2022 is to create a 2023 warrant article to designate lots 107 and 108 as town forests.*
- *MG mentioned that Lempster was inquiring about Dodge Brook Class “A” trail. They were asking about it’s classification. KB to review files for information.*

Review Intents to Cut – None

Town Owned Land Recommendations

(Handout)

- List of parcels (4-5) due to Board of Selectmen NLT 1 April 2022.
- We have 3 properties we are recommending for auction so far. 2 on Halls Pond and 1 on Crescent Lake.
- We have 2 that have “sell to abutters”, Augustinowicz 210-27 and Bus 226-1.
- We have 12 that have not been assessed. One (1) of the 12 has a “keep for conservation” from the 2019 assessment, and 2 have “sell with restrictions”. We will review these 12 at our meeting.
- *We reviewed 2 properties that were recommended by the 2019 conservation commission. MG will review the “Howard” property, map 210 lot 39. GT will review the “Champney” property, map 226 lot 6. KB will conduct some research on both properties and provide MG and GT with what she finds.*

Forestry, Town Forests & Other Conservation

- Complete survey Create a 2023 warrant article for the designation of the 2 crescent lake properties (Map 201, 107 and 108) into Town Forests.
- Review forest management plans for Gove Road and South Acworth Forest areas.
- *GT to contact Peter Rhoades to see if he can attend one of our meetings to provide us with an overview of the 2004 forest management plan.*
- *GT to provide ST with the 2004 forest management plan. ST to review and at our next meeting provide an overview.*
- *ST to provide the contact information for the surveyor Clayton Platt.*
- *KB reminded the commission that a decision regarding an assessment of our culverts was still pending with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. KB to consult next steps with the Planning Board.*

Easement Monitoring

- All 2021 monitoring is complete. Review assignments for 2022
- Share letter we received from SPNHF (Society for the Protection of NH Forests)

(Handout)

Outreach, Communications & Volunteer Events

- March newsletter and Facebook article pending with the recap of our accomplishments in 2021 and goals for 2022. Due 20 Feb.
- NH Land Trust Coalition sponsored Remote Monitoring Workshop, 10 Feb.
- Develop volunteer program activities
 - *Confirmed: Keyes Hollow Nature Trail Cleanup will be one of our targets for 2022.*
 - *Confirmed: Town owned Crescent Lake property boundary marking (Map 201, lots 107 and 108) will be the other community effort that we support.*
 - *Confirmed: Green-Up day will be the 3rd effort we solicit support for.*
 - *Confirmed: Sponsored use of iNaturalist will be the 4th way that we reach out to the community in 2022.*
- Develop educational series
 - Effects of Climate Change and Action Plan – *Not discussed.*
 - Acworth Natural Resources Inventory
 - **iNaturalist** rollout to the community
 - *Recommendation made by KB to reach out to Fred Ernst for possible educational session. To be discussed with JB to contact Fred.*

(Handout)

2021 Annual Report

- Submitted in a Summary and the full report will be available as a handout. I was planning on speaking briefly about our goals and 2022 planned activities.

Other business

- Review new Conservation Land Value Assessment form
 - **HOMEWORK:** *GT asked the commission to review this form and provide feedback at our next meeting.*
- Standard Set of Maps
 - *KB mentioned that Mark Goodwin has supported the town with maps in the past. KB to reach out to Mark to start a discussion.*

(Handout)

Map Description	Currency & Source	Action Required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Composite	2020 -	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topographical	1998 – USGS	Consists of 4 USGS maps; need more current and consolidated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat	2004 – NRI Phase II	Need larger version
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology – Water Features	2004 – NRI Phase II	GranitView Details available – list of dams and surface water bodies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Lands (easements, trusts and designated town forests)	Current GRANITView	Need larger version
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetation Composition/Land Cover	2004 – NRI Phase II	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Composition or Analysis		Need a version
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-Occurrence and Rec. Cons. Areas	2004 – NRI Phase II	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unfragmented Lands	2004 – NRI Phase II	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parcel Overlay	2021	Print and create an overlay
Other- TBD		

- NH Wildlife Action Plan Review Liz
- Index list of all natural resources Janet *(Handout)*
 - *We reviewed the work that Janet has completed. All agreed that Janet did some significant work.*
 - *Motion made by GT to exclude historical, cultural, and scenic roads from the natural resources inventory. Motion also included the general exclusion of Class VI roads unless the road had significant conservation value. Lastly the motion included the inclusion of dams and Class A trails into the list of natural resources. 2nd MG. Passed.*
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- Conservation Commission Bylaws Gregg *(Handout)*
 - **HOMWORK:** *GT asked the commission to review the by-laws and provide feedback at our next meeting.*

Non-Public Discussion - None

Next Meeting - 16 March 2022

- *Motion made by GT/JJ to hold a meeting in March on the 16th, one week after the town meeting. 2nd by JJ. Passed.*

Conservation Commission Members:

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