

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes June 8, 2022

Attendees

Members Present: Gregg Thibodeau, Mark Girard, Kathi Brandt, Scott Travers, Jennifer Bland, Janet Slocum

Others Present: Robin Westcott Ungeheuer

Minutes of May 11, 2022 - Motion made (JB), 2nd (JS) and passed.

Forestry, Town Forests & Other Conservation

- Appointment of a new forester
 - Potential forester Jeff Snitkin provided an overview of his work and his company. Folks were able to ask questions. At our next meeting we will confirm our intent to proceed with Jeff as our forester.
 - Jeff is a certified forester with a pesticide license.
 - 4-person company; they alternate leads on their jobs
 - Has worked with NRCS for grants, even for municipalities
 - Will leverage existing forest stewardship plan
 - Concern was raised that we need to be conscious of the budget and available funds when we consider any changes to the forest stewardship plan
 - Billing will be by effort (time and materials), e.g., cost for the plan updates as one effort and then a separate cost for the work and that could be further broken out by phases, etc.
 - Reviewed the forester job description. Some feedback provided. Next step is to review with the board.
- Surveyor for Possible New Town Forest Parcels Map (Map 201, 107 and 108)
 - ST received an estimate from Travis Royce/Chris Paton - \$7000-\$7500
 - GT received an estimate from Dombrowski, \$5000-\$7000. They can do the research this summer and conduct the survey work fall/winter.
 - JB waiting for a response from D'ibernado surveyors for an estimate
 - KB provided another surveyor # - Eric Peabody: eric@greentoplandsurveying.com; 603-477-7422

Finance-Budget

- **Available Funds**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,904.89 (+\$0.03 interest only)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund: \$12,129.82 (+\$0.09 interest only)
 - Current use change funding is pending for \$1,865.

Complaints, Concerns & Other Actions – No additional actions required

Review Intents to Cut

- Reviewed two intents to cut (map 243 lot 4 and map 244 lot 2) and found no issues with either.
 - Bascom, Crane Brook Rd., map 243 lot 4, app. by BoS, assumed to be part of their annual cuts
 - Bascom, Ryan Rd., map 244, lot 2, approved by BoS, assumed to be part of their annual cuts

Town Owned Land Recommendations

- We have 8 parcels that have not been assessed. One (1) of the 8 has a “keep for conservation” from the 2019 assessment. Members will start reviewing the remaining 8 properties over the next couple of meetings.
 - GT - Work NH Division of Forest and Lands, map 250 lot 2 to determine the effort, actions and costs of adding the property into Honey Brook State Park.
 - JB - Complete land assessment form for 230 lot 3 (Ball property)
 - Recommend that all the land-locked properties be offered to abutters
 - Map 234-19 and 234-18 be considered together in the abutter offers; 18 is land-locked by 19.
 - GT to complete map assessments of 234-18 and 19 and map 222-21.
 - MG to assess Roberts (map 236-10) River Road property. GT completed a map assessment, and it appears that this property has some significant conservation value.

- KB to look up deed for Stebbins Road (map 229-58). To determine if there are any restrictions.

Easement Monitoring

- All 2022 monitoring due NLT 28 Nov 2022.
- LCIP/CLS visit on July 26th at 8:30am for 3-4 hours to visit 5 easements.
 - GT/JB to create a plan for the 3-4 hours
 - GT to contact Bascom and Clark invite/notify of review
 - JB to contact Grace (Thibault) invite/notify of review
 - GT to have “red files” and latest monitoring results available

Outreach, Communications & Volunteer Events

- Develop volunteer program activities
 - Keyes Hollow Nature Trail Cleanup will be one of our targets for 2022. Best time for this would be 2nd or 3rd week of September and should be held on a weekend. GT will take lead with some support from MG and JB, others TBD.
 - Town owned Crescent Lake property boundary marking (Map 201, lots 107 and 108) will be the other community effort that we support - Dependent on the surveys of these properties. See notes under Forestry section.
- Develop educational series
 - Effects of Climate Change and What You Can Do - GT to take the lead on coordinating a speaker for Climate Change and date that this can be arranged in our town hall.
 - iNaturalist rollout to the community. GT to take a lead on communicating iNaturalist use in town.
 - Wild Fowl Habitat Education Session – JB stated that Fred would be interested in sharing some of his practices. JB to work with Fred to capture.

Other business

- Conservation Commission Bylaws Review – 1st 5 pages
 - Article 5 – Duties and Functions Relative to Mission
 - Item 9, page 2 – add SPNHF
 - Article 8 – Finances
 - Add historical information to the first paragraph in which the annual cap was removed. “The Conservation Fund began with the 1972 town vote to establish a Conservation Commission in accordance with RSA36-A. In 1988 the town then voted to allow accumulation of unexpended operating monies in the Conservation Fund. And, in 2002, it was decided at town meeting to place 100% of the Land Use Change Tax with a \$2000 annual cap, into the Conservation Fund .”
 - Recommended verbiage to be added “In 2018 *(please confirm the year)* the town voted to remove the annual cap, which is where it stands today.”
 - Entire Artifact
 - Remove assignments/references to Town Forest Advisory Board. Replace with Conservation Commission.
 - Article 9 – Organization
 - Add “co-chair” as a possible electable position.
 - Article 10 – Membership
 - Remove “The Commission shall maintain a standing list of no less than three (3) potential new members. The Commission shall vote to add a person to this list after review of a letter of intent and qualifications and after such person has attended at least one regularly scheduled meeting.”
 - GT asked the commission to review the next 5 pages (6-10) of the by-laws and provide feedback at our next meeting.
- Index list of all natural resources - JS has completed the initial draft of the index. Commission was impressed with the level of detail. Commission was asked to review and provide JS with any changes or additions.
- Standard Set of Maps - JS will begin working on the set of standard maps after her work on the inventory
- Cold River Advisory (CRA) – Beverly is still going to their meetings. They meet 3rd Thursday each month.

- 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.
- **Education Opportunity** – Endangered and invasive species review
 - We reviewed one endangered (Northeast Bulrush) and one invasive (Autumn Olive) species.
 - Commission agreed to a rotating schedule for each member to provide a review of one endangered and one invasive species at each of our meetings.
 - The following link will take you right to the folder on our OneDrive that has the attached presentation, and it's where I plan to store all our collected information on rare, endangered, and invasive species. <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AqRxoWfEqT8Tg-1ZCfbvbXWeKynxOg?e=hNqqIR>
 - Roster

▪ Scott Travers	Jul	TBD
▪ Janet Slocum	Aug	4 bumble bees and bittersweet
▪ Mark Girard	Sep	TBD
▪ Kathi Brandt	Oct	brown thrasher (end) and honeysuckle (inv)
▪ Jennifer Bland	Nov	TBD

Next Meeting – 13 July 2022

Conservation Commission Members:

- Kathi Brandt, Board of Selectmen, kasbradt@msn.com, 835-2567
- Jennifer Bland, jlb1365@att.net 860-601-2223
- Gregg Thibodeau, Gregg@thibodeaufamily.com 860-338-3227
- Mark Girard, gothabitat@yahoo.com 603-851-2785
- Scott Travers, pamscottdave@gmail.com (603) 863-6636
- Janet Slocum, jslobvan@hotmail.com, (413) 336-1145