

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes November 8, 2023

Present: Kathi Bradt, Gregg Thibodeau, Scott Travers, Rob Traver

Absent: Robin Ungeheuer, Mark Girard, Janet Slocum, Jennifer Bland,

Public: None

Majority quorum of a minimal of 4 voting members or alternatives was not present. Kathi is the Ex Officio Select Board representative and therefore does not carry a vote. Decisions and topics requiring motions or votes will be added to the December meeting agenda.

Meeting minutes of October 11, 2023, were reviewed and the following changes posted.

- Change the title to read “Minutes” instead of “Agenda”.
- Add Rob to the list of Conservation Commission (Concom) members.
- A discussion of publishing the agenda prior to the meeting was discussed. GT stated it would be annotated in this month’s minutes.

Governance

- Concom agendas will be posted on the town’s webpage Mondays prior to our meetings.
- We will add Rob to our town’s ConCom webpage.

Organizational

Funds/Budget

- Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,908.67 (+\$0.31 interest)
- Conservation Land Use Fund \$16,511.60 (-\$950 forester, +\$1.31 interest)
- We discussed the option of using alternative investment options for our funds. Our budget for 2024 will be discussed at our next meeting.

Conservation Plan

- Overall plan updates & review priorities (GT)
 - We reviewed the outstanding table of content items with the following assignments:
 - 3-5-10 Plan – GT
 - Acworth Conservation Scorecard – GT
 - Description of Natural Resources – RU
 - Climate Change – GT
 - Education/Outreach – All Members (GT to create initial draft)
 - Maps – JS
 - Invasives, Endangered species – RT
 - Invasive Aquatic species – GT
 - Rules of Procedures – All members (GT to create initial draft)
 - All topics do not need to be 100 % complete.
 - Goal would be to have the artifact ready no later than 1 February 2024, and ready for distribution to the public at the town annual meeting.

- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (Olivia Uyizeye) responded to my e-mail and recommended 2 changes.

- (1) Define Outreach goals with specific information for residents to fully understand how they will be engaged.
- (2) Define recommendations that are very actionable and clearly understood.

- **Bylaws** – No changes

Forestry and Conservation

Land Protection

- Intents to Cut
 - 3 Bascom intents to cut, 23-001-14, 23-001-15, 23-001-16; All 3 are annual cordwood harvesting operations. All 3 have relatively small MBF. Select board approved all 3.

- 3 Rhoades intents to cut, 23-001-17, 23-001-18, 23-001-19; All 3 are annual cordwood harvesting operations. All 3 have relatively small MBF.
 - Noone had any issues with any of these intents to cut.
- Building, excavation, and other permits - none
- South Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – December meeting will discuss/develop Concom goals to be part of the plan.
- Crescent Lake (map 201, lots 107 and 108) - surveyor to complete plan with additional information received and pending. 5 issues need to be addressed. Two of the items will require boundary agreements with landowners.
- Tree Warden actions and plans – none
- Easement Monitoring
 - 2023 assignments made, please complete monitoring prior to 1 Dec.
 - **Action Item:** ST and GT to coordinate date time to complete the Clark properties.
 - GT has conducted a review of Keyes Hollow and Gove Road with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF).
 - **Action Item:** JB to coordinate a meet-and-greet with the new owner of the Fred Ernst/Black North-Heino Road property. Monitoring will also be discussed.
- Town Owned Land Management
 - Update Prouty/Honey Brook Property - Map 250 lot 2 – the state is reviewing our request and questions.
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Discussion regarding compliance to regulations included concerns that restrictions and permits are not be followed and for the building permits this likely means that the town is missing significant revenue opportunities.
 - Shoreland Permit Issues
 - Removing vegetation, map 201 lot 106 (Fong)
 - Installing culverts in wetland, map 211, lot 5 & 6 (Kelin)
 - Crescent Lake Water Quality Project Update
 - The Water Quality Group will be reviewing Lake Sunapee ordinances, rules and enforcement options to determine what if any might be applicable to Crescent Lake for Acworth to consider.
 - Goal would be to raise funds to conduct a watershed analysis in 2024 and create a watershed management plan.

Communications, Training and Outreach

- **Training-Education**
 - Conservation Commission Webpage - <https://www.acworthnh.net/conservation-commission>
 - **Action Item:** Members to review the webpage and make recommendations. Some of the topics to consider include Ways to Conserve Your Land; Certified Forester listing; listing of tools and agencies to assist landowners.
 - 11/4 NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting; Rob Travers provided an overview of the meeting and the sessions he attended. He felt that the meeting was very informative.
- **Community Outreach**
 - Volunteer Field Events – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
 - Educational topics – Climate Change Impacts; shoreland and wetland restrictions, limitations, and requirements.
- **Next Meeting** – 13 December 2023 at 7pm in the Town Hall.
 - Agenda items will include a 2024 budget and annual report for town annual meeting in March, Outreach draft plan development and South Acworth Town Forest goal development.

Meeting closed at 8:05pm.

Conservation Commission Members:

- Jennifer Bland, jlb1365@att.net 860-601-2223
- Gregg Thibodeau, Gregg@thibodeaufamily.com 860-338-3227
- Kathi Bradt, Select Board Rep, kasbradt@msn.com, 835-2567
- Mark Girard, gothabitat@yahoo.com 603-851-2785
- Scott Travers, pamscottdave@gmail.com (603) 863-6636
- Janet Slocum, jslobvan@hotmail.com (413) 336-1145
- Rob Traver, r_traver@hotmail.com (508) 736-9156
- Robin Ungeheuer (alt), galena6@hotmail.com

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