

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes August 14, 2024

Present: Scott Travers, Gregg Thibodeau, Ryanne Schoonover (Select Board Representative) , Lisa Hyatt, Rob Traver,

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

Public Attendance: Steve Murray

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

Review/approve minutes of July 10, 2024 - minutes were approved.

Public Topics – None

Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**

- Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,911.59 (+ \$0.31 interest)
- Conservation Land Use Fund \$18,169.54 (- expenses \$50, \$500, \$2448, + credits \$1.48 interest, \$115.81) \$50 – Travers COVERT, \$500 – Orchard Hill Donation, \$2448 – turbidity meter
- Additional deposits from the Land Tax Changes should also post in our next statement.

- **By Laws** – Members asked to review Rob’s comments and provide any addition feedback.

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**

- Intents to Cut - none
- Permits/complaints – none
- South Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – review of forest management plan in-progress.
- Land Surveys - Crescent Lake (map 201, lots 107 and 108) – _Action pending to select another surveyor.
- Easement Monitoring -Pan-Northern Pierce Brook SPNHF (Jen) – meet-and-greet introductory session pending. JB will follow up with Mr. Osgood about a date.

- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)

- Keyes Hollow HVA actions – Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) engaged; question regarding prime wetland designation benefits RT identified other towns that have completed designated prime wetland. RT specifically mentioned Enfield NH. They have some similar circumstances. The goal is to identify a town that has completed a wetland assessment with actionable next steps.
- Crescent Lake Water Quality update – vendors for an assessment to create a watershed management plan have been narrowed down to one vendor, Stone Environmental. This will determine what the health and quality of water is on Crescent Lake. Water Quality Group requested donations from Acworth and Unity Conservation Commissions. Motion made to donate \$2500 from our Acworth Concom to the Crescent Lake Clear Trust (501-c-3) specifically for the watershed assessment. Expectation is that any funds not sent on this purpose would be returned to our Acworth Concom.

Communications, Training and Outreach

- **Community Outreach**

- Newsletter – Jen and Gregg completed the article for the September newsletter. Lisa to review our monthly submissions for any suggestions.
 - Topics to consider for future letters: seasonal relevant topic for Oct/Nov, iNaturalist; library corner
 - Other educational topics: Climate change impacts; shoreland and wetland restrictions/limitations/requirements, property conservation options,
- Conservation plan – decided on October 12th to conduct the review. GT to confirm availability of the town hall. Gregg to create a presentation that we will review at our September meeting. GT to create a flyer and post in town newsletter for September and October. We agreed that our communications should align with the other efforts that we intend to support. We agreed to have virtual access if possible as well as a live presentation. We agreed to not provide the plan in advance, because it is so comprehensive and without the overview might be perceived as too much to digest. We will also have available printed copies and if others are requested, we will take orders. We also agreed to have a very simple questionnaire at the

end of the meeting to get additional feedback. RT is to streamline the opening sections. GT is going to provide a copy of the plan to a previously defined group of subject matter experts to get their opinion. LH reviewed the plan and was impressed with the content, topics covered, and effort associated with the work to create this plan.

- Volunteer Field Events – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
- **Next Meeting** – 11 September at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.

Conservation Commission Members:

- Jennifer Bland (co-chair)
- Gregg Thibodeau (co-chair)
- RYanne Schoonover, (Select Board rep.)
- Mark Girard
- Scott Travers
- Janet Slocum
- Rob Traver
- Robin Ungeheuer (alt)
- Lisa Hyatt (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)