

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes March 16, 2022

Attendees:

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

Others Present: Diane Bisio, Scott's friend – name TBD, Peter Rhoades, Janet Slocum, Robin Westcott Ungeheuer

Minutes of February 16, 2022 - *Reviewed and approved. Submitted 3/21 to town clerk for posting.*

Staff Change

- Beverly completed her current term on the conservation commission and will not be serving another term.

Forestry, Town Forests & Other Conservation

- Town Forests: Peter Rhoades will review the historical background of the forest management plans for the two (2) town forests. Review with the intent for us to update and continue with the forest management plans for Gove Road and South Acworth Forest areas.
 - *PR provided a great overview of the two town forests management plans, and he informed us that he has retired his position as forester for the town. He is retiring from forestry in general. He recommended that we talk with Jeff Snitkin (certified forester). Jeff is currently working on the Thibodeau property forest management plan. Plan was created in 2020, work started in 2021 and is due to be completed by 2024. GT will ask Jeff if he is interested and could come to one of our ConCom meetings. Jeff took over management of the Charlestown Forest from PR.*
 - *Gove Road Town Forest forestry and timber sales were conducted back in 1998-2000. Town realized revenue estimated \$136K off the efforts.*
 - *Primarily pulp and durian timber (light wood) species.*
 - *They did also return after the initial harvest to harvest some ash due to the ash bore.*
 - *They set the expectation that forest management should be reviewed again in 22-23 years.*
 - *South Acworth Town Forest*
 - *PR recommended that this be a priority for harvest.*
 - *Their assessment was that this was probably low-grade timber.*
 - *Access to the property will have to be worked on. Possibly leverage abutters property*
 - *70-80 acres; there was some concern with the number of acres and the parcels that comprise this property.*
 - *New Forestry Efforts*
 - *PR would work with our new forester to get new plans established.*
 - *We should re-establish our forest management goals.*
 - *Recommendation that we spread out the income over a few years.*
- Possible New Town Forest Parcels: Complete a survey, provide BoS with detailed assessments, resolve intrusions, properly mark boundaries, and create a 2023 warrant article for the designation of the 2 crescent lake properties (Map 201, 107 and 108) into Town Forests. ST provided the contact information for the surveyor Clayton Platt. **Next Step:** *ST to contact surveyor (Clayton Platt) for a cost estimate.*
- Palladino Conservation Easement Inquiry – Franca and Andrew, map 240 lot 3 (88 acres) and 239 lot 13 (13 acres); *GT directed them to land trusts to determine what they wanted to accomplish with an easement. Specifically, GT recommended the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) and LCIP's Conservation Land Stewardship program. They would determine the land trust that they wanted to work with and determine goals for the easement. At that point they would get back to the ConCom.*

Finance-Budget

- **Available Funds**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,904.79 (+\$0.03 interest only)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund: \$12,129.52 (+\$0.11 interest only)
- GT sent out the revised final budget to the commission members on 9 March.

- **Projector Update** – *MG confirmed the pending donation and stated that we could go ahead with the purchase. GT to order and provide receipt to Mark.*

Complaints, Concerns & Other Actions

- Keyes Hollow Road Update– No change
 - **Action Required:** GT 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); No change.*
- Sale of 437 River Road by Town – Helen Frink raised a concern about a sale of lots 12 and 12.1 on map 236 (8 acres). Apparently, this has already been listed. Concern that the lot is not buildable, but the ad infers it is. ***(See Handout Email and a Concom Assessment)***
 - *MG to walk the properties in question.*
 - *GT and MG will attend BoS meeting to review findings.*

Review Intents to Cut – None

Town Owned Land Recommendations

- *MG and GT reviewed their findings for the Howard and Champney properties. (Handout-Worksheet) (Champney handout)*
 - Concom agreed that both properties could be added to our list.
- There are also 2 that are designated to “sell to abutters”, Augustinowicz 210-27 and Bus 226-1.
- *List of 5 parcels was submitted to the Board of Selectmen 21 March 2022.*
- *We have 8 that have not been assessed. It’s our intent to assess these this year in 2022.*

Easement Monitoring

- All 2021 monitoring is complete. Review assignments for 2022 *(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. *GT to create an article from our 2021 Annual Report.*
- 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 a 3rd effort we solicit support for. Need to confirm the date, 23 April.
 - Confirmed: Sponsored use of iNaturalist will be the 4th way that we reach out to the community in 2022.
- Develop educational series *We ran out of time to discuss this topic. We will make this a priority for our next meeting agenda.*
 - Effects of Climate Change and Action Plan.
 - Acworth Natural Resources Inventory
 - **INaturalist** rollout to the community
 - Recommendation: Reach out to Fred Ernst for possible educational session. To be discussed with JB to contact Fred.

Other business

- Review new Conservation Land Value Assessment form *(Handout)*
 - **HOMEWORK:** GT asked the commission to review this form and provide feedback at our next meeting.
 - *We ran out of time to discuss this topic. We will make this a priority for our next meeting agenda.*
- Standard Set of Maps
 - Kathi Brandt provided contact information for Mark Goodwin who supported the town with maps in the past.
 - *GT to work with JS and Mark Goodwin to enable our team’s development of our own maps and our ability to open the maps created during the 2004-2005 Natural Resources Inventory.*

<i>Map Description</i>	<i>Currency & Source</i>	<i>Action Required</i>
☑ Composite	2020 -	None
✓ Topographical	1998 – USGS	Consists of 4 USGS maps; need more current and consolidated
✓ Wildlife Habitat	2004 – NRI Phase II	Need larger version
✓ Hydrology – Water Features	2004 – NRI Phase II	GranitView Details available – list of dams and surface water bodies
✓ Conservation Lands (easements, trusts and designated town forests)	Current GRANITView	Need larger version
☑ Vegetation Composition/Land Cover	2004 – NRI Phase II	
☹ Soil Composition or Analysis		Need a version
☑ Co-Occurrence and Rec. Cons. Areas	2004 – NRI Phase II	
☑ Unfragmented Lands	2004 – NRI Phase II	
☑ Parcel Overlay	2021	Print and create an overlay

- NH Wildlife Action Plan Review Liz (*Liz was not present. Will push this topic to our next meeting.*)
- Index list of all natural resources Janet
 - *JS to provided overview of what she's identified and determined so far. She recommended a new approach that involved creating the relevant conservation maps; overlaying them and use the resulting observations to create a list of prioritized natural resources.*
 - *GT to work with JS to vet out that process and review at our next meeting.*
- Conservation Commission Bylaws Gregg
 - **HOMEWORK:** *GT asked the commission to review the by-laws and provide feedback at our next meeting. This will be reviewed at our next meeting on 13 April.*

Non-Public Discussion – began at 8:10pm; completed at 8:25pm

Meeting adjourned – 8:30pm

Next Meeting - 13 April 2022

Conservation Commission Members:

- Jim Jennison, Board of Selectmen 248jimj@gmail.com 835-2596
- 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