

## Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes July 13, 2022

### Attendees

**Members Present:** Gregg Thibodeau, Kathi Brandt, Scott Travers, Janet Slocum

**Others Present:** Terry Mattson

**Review/approve Minutes of June 8, 2022** – motion made, 2<sup>nd</sup> (ST/JS). Motion passed.

**Membership** – Motion made (GT) to recommend Terry Mattson as and alternate. Terry has 2 years' experience on the Sunapee ConCom and is currently on the Crescent Lake Association. 2<sup>nd</sup> by ST; motion passed. **Action Item:** GT to take our recommend of Terry Mattson as an alternate to the Select Board.

### Forestry, Town Forests & Other Conservation

- Town Forester – discussion concurred that Jeff has all the necessary qualifications; he has good references and he has a good approach to forestry that should work well for us. Motion made (GT) to recommend Jeff Snitkin as our new town forester; 2<sup>nd</sup> (ST); motion passed. **Action Item:** GT to take recommendation to the Select Board.
- Forester Job Description was signed off by the Select Board. This will be permanently stored in our Conservation Plan.
- 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 received a response from D'ibernado surveyors that they could not do anything with us until next 2023.
  - GT sent a request for an estimate to Eric Peabody: eric@greentoplansurveying.com; 603-477-7422

### Finance-Budget

- **Available Funds**
  - Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,904.92 (+\$0.03 interest only)
  - Conservation Land Use Fund: \$15,844.94 (+\$3,715 land use tax and \$0.12 interest)
  - Current use change funding is pending for approx. \$1,600.

**Complaints, Concerns & Other Actions** – No additional actions required

### Review Intents to Cut

- No issues found with the Clark, Crane Brook Rd., map 244 lot 4, 21.7 of 21.7 acres to cut; 33,000 MBF/20 cord of hardwood; BoS approved 6/20; assumed to be part of their annual cuts
- No issues found with the Clark, Crane Brook Rd., map 244, lot 5, 37 of 119 acres to cut; 82,000 MBF/20 cord of hardwood; approved by BoS 6/20, assumed to be part of their annual cuts
- Discussion occurred around our role with this review process. We agreed that ConCom should be looking for impacts to impacts to wetlands. JS suggested that we utilize GRANITView maps to do this. GT suggested at our next meeting that we would review the properties via GRANITView before approving.
- Discussion was had regarding the sequencing of our review vs. the Select Board. We agreed that we should be first. We agreed that for the next month we would not recommend a change to the process with the Select Board but instead look at the properties per the previous bulleted comment.
- We also questioned the role of the Select Board, and what was the state expectations for both the ConCom and Select Board. **Action Item:** GT to follow-up with NHACC to obtain their guidance for the ConCom. GT to follow-up with Charlotte to obtain NHMA's guidance for the Select Board.
- **Action Item:** GT to reach out to Rick Owens NH Department of Timber and Gravel to see what guidance they have for the "intents to cut" requirement. This might actually be part of the Department of Revenue.

### Town Owned Land Recommendations

- We have 8 parcels that have not been assessed.
  - Recommend that all the land-locked properties be offered to abutters
  - **Action Item:** 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. NH is sending out an assessor to review the property. It was asked if we could expect the state to purchase this from us. GT was told that a purchase is unlikely. Not impossible but unlikely. Question was asked if this change to a state park would impact the land value or our taxes. **Action Item:** GT and Charlotte to follow-up with the question about tax or land value implication.
  - **Action Item:** JB to complete land assessment form for 230 lot 3 (Ball property)
  - Map 234-19 and 234-18 be considered together in the abutter offers; 18 is land-locked by 19.
  - **Action Item:** JS to complete map assessments of 234-18 and 19 and map 222-21.
  - **Action Item:** 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.
  - **Decision Made:** Water source on Stebbins Road (map 229-58) is assumed to still be utilized by the Fire Department. This property will remain under town ownership and will not be offered up for sale. **Action Item:** GT to update worksheet accordingly.

### Easement Monitoring

- All 2022 monitoring due NLT 28 Nov 2022.
- LCIP/CLS visit on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am for 3-4 hours to visit 5 easements.
  - GT/JB to create a plan for the 3-4 hours
  - JB to contact Grace (Thibault) invite/notify of review
  - GT and JB will conduct the review with LCIP
  - **Action Item:** GT to check the Select Board files for other “Red” files from LCIP.

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
  - iNaturalist rollout to the community. GT to take a lead on communicating iNaturalist use in town.
  - 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.
  - 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 – 6-10 pages; following changes have been made
  - Following changes were recommended
    - Article 11:03 – Treasurer responsibilities added to the duty and responsibilities of the commission. ConCom Treasure is optional.
    - Article 12 – Should be Committees or Assignments
      - 12:01 – should be a statement indicating that the following are recommendations and are to be leveraged at the commission’s discretion, as required.
      - 12:01 first sentence wording should be changed to read “One or Commission members...”
      - 12:02 – Remove the statement that the Wetland Activity Review Committee be a standing committee. Replace with “as needed”. Ensure this requirement are listed in the duties and responsibilities of the Commission.
      - 12:02 – 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph change “all waters” to “all perennial waters”

- 12:02 paragraph 6 – ensure these requirements are listed in the ConCom duties and responsibilities.
- 12:0X – add review of intents to cut to duties and responsibilities
- 12:03 – remove “shall be a standing committee” statement. Replace “as needed; to be determined by the ConCom”
- 12:03 – Ensure requirements for Forest Advisory are included in ConCom duties and responsibilities
- 12:04 – Remove and ensure requirements are stated in ConCom duties and responsibilities
- GT asked the commission to review the last pages of the by-laws and provide feedback at our next meeting.
- Standard Set of Maps - JS created an initial index of base maps that we can leverage.
- Cold River Advisory (CRA) – They meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. 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.
- **Commission Member Education Opportunity** – Endangered and invasive species review
  - Roster
 

▪ Scott Travers	Jul	American Woodcock and Glossy Buckthorn
▪ 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 – 10 August 2022**