

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes January 11,2023

Attendance

- Present: Gregg Thibodeau, Janet Slocum, Scott Travers, Robin Ungeheuer, Jennifer Griffin
- Not Present: Mark Girard, Terry Mattson, Kathi Bradt, Jennifer Bland
- Due to the low # of voting members we agreed to defer any motions until our next meeting and continue with this meeting and the agenda.
- We conducted introductions with Jennifer Griffin. Jennifer has a master's degree in fishery. She is currently working for a hydroelectric plant on the Connecticut River. She deals with fish habitats and water quality.
- We discussed options for Robin and Jennifer G to become alternates for our commission. Both were interested. GT already forwarded Jennifer G, the requirements. GT will forward requirements to Robin as well. This topic will be added to our next meeting agenda.

Review/approve Minutes of December 14, 2022

- Review and vote will be accomplished at our next meeting.

Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,905.41 (+\$0.33 interest)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund: \$17,447.09 (+\$1.44 interest)
 - Discussion regarding the Fred Ernst sale which includes conservation land and private land.
 - There may be an opportunity for timber harvests on these properties with the ConCom as a possible benefactor of the proceeds.
 - According to LandVest realtor and New England Real Estate Network a contract is pending.
 - **Action:** GT checking with Peter Rhoades and the county forester Dode Gladding to determine if they were ever involved in any harvests on the Ernst property.
- **Annual Report**
 - **Action:** GT to draft our annual report and obtain feedback via e-mail from the commission members.
- **Conservation Plan**
 - We reviewed the outline and changes made since our last review.
 - **Action:** JS to contact Mark Goodwin to determine any other options to create and utilize co-occurrences to aid in the prioritization of our natural resources in our plan.

Forestry and Conservation

- Intents to Cut – None
- Building, excavation, and other permits
 - Statutory Permit by Notification (SPN) – Thibodeau – 2022-03464 – 813 Cold Pond Road; DES finding - administratively complete.
 - Dion 2022-02900 – Provided additional documentation per DES request for their dock project.
- Forestry complaints, concerns & other actions
 - Dodge Hollow Update
 - Perry Mountain Update – An appeal has been filed to the Charlestown Select Board for the building permits that they approved. Concern with impacts to a conservation area on the Borough Road. See handout. Charlestown ZBA hearing scheduled for January 12 at 6 PM in the Community Room below Silsby Library, 26 Railroad Street, Charlestown
 - Crescent Lake Map 201-Lot 106 (Fong) – incursion of materials into the town owned lot 107; Charlotte reached out to Fong. He is supposed to be working with the contractors to clean up the area. **Action:** GT to revisit the area in 2 weeks (23 Jan).
- Forester actions and plans – Jeff is working on an estimate for the creation of the plan.
 - Jeff is likely going to focus on the South Acworth Forest first, given the mature age of the forest and monoculture (fir, spruce, hemlock) environment with the limited undergrowth.
 - **Action:** Create schedule & a list requirements (GT, MG)

- Surveyor action and plans
 - Surveys in-progress for Crescent Lake town owned properties (map 201, lots 107 & 108) Due Jan 2023
- Tree Warden actions and plans – None
- Easement Monitoring - All 2022 monitoring has been submitted to LCIP and SPNHF
- Town Owned Land Management
 - Update Map 250 lot 2 (Prouty) – GT and Charlotte to work with state to finalize actions required.
 - ST asked about a town owned property off of Heino/Lufkin Road that was listed as a town property on a couple of maps. GT agreed to look at the status of the property. GT confirmed that this is on our list of town owned properties and currently has a status of “Retain for conservation” in our most recent assessment. Map 209 lot 007 is the parcel.
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Permits – None
 - Water quality and testing tools – **Action:** JG will investigate the tools that is being leveraged in her work environment. She will also provide some references to water quality online resources.
 - Various tools measure the different aspects of water quality.
 - There are different levels of accuracy as well.
 - Establishing baselines will be important to ensure we understand how our tools measure up to (or do not) with the DES/EPA measures.
 - **Action:** GT still attempting to get in touch with the Cold River Advisory Council (CRAC) and review what they are doing for the water quality in Cold River.

Communications, Training and Outreach,

- **Community Outreach**
 - Volunteer events – Crescent Lake town owned properties cleanup and boundary marking; Keyes Hollow Nature Trail cleanup.
 - Educational events – Climate impacts and actions
 - Commission Member Education Opportunity – Endangered and invasive species review
 - Kathi Bradt Jan brown thrasher (end) and honeysuckle (inv)
 - We reviewed the presentation the Kathi created - <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AqRxoWfEqT8Tg-1ZCfbvbXWeKynxOg?e=WUQQPI>. All these presentations are stored in this directory.
 - Jennifer Bland Feb TBD
 - Janet Slocum Apr 4 bumble bees and bittersweet
 - Mark Girard May New England Cottontail
- **Next Meeting** – 8 February 2023