

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes December 14, 2022

Attendance

- Gregg Thibodeau, Kathi Bradt, Janet Slocum, Terry Mattson, Robin Ungeheuer, Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LPSA) representative Kirk Bishop
- Not Present: Mark Girard, Scott Travers

Review/approve Minutes of November 09, 2022

- Motion made (JS) and 2nd (TM); motion passed to approve minutes

Organizational

Funds/Budget

- Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,905.08 (+\$0.03 interest)
- Conservation Land Use Fund: \$17,445.65 (+\$0.15 interest)
 - Discussion regarding the Fred Ernst sale which includes conservation land and private land.
 - **Actions:**
 - Jen to contact Fred to see what his intentions are and if there is any consideration to gifting the land to the town.
 - Gregg to follow-up with Peter Rhoades and county forester to determine if a timber harvest was ever accomplished on Fred's property.

Forestry and Conservation

Land Protection

- Intents to Cut – None
- Building, excavation, and other permits
 - Dredge and Fill Wetland Permit – 314 Crescent Lake Road, Dion – Application received by NH DES and determined complete.
- Forestry complaints, concerns & other actions
 - Dodge Hollow Update - **Action:** GT to create a plan (*push to January meeting*)
 - Perry Mountain Update – Charlestown building permits approved in Oct. Charlestown BoS approved ROW work on the Class VI Road. Abutters filed a complaint. Select board asked planning board to review and comment.
- Forester actions and plans – Jeff is working on an estimate for the creation of the plan.
 - 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)
- Tree Warden actions and plans - None
- Easement Monitoring
 - All 2022 monitoring complete.
- Town Owned Land Management
 - Update Map 250 lot 2 (Prouty) – Gregg, Charlotte and State to outline next steps.
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Permits - None

Communications, Training and Outreach,

Community Outreach

- Volunteer events - None
- Educational events
- Commission Member Education Opportunity – Endangered and invasive species review
 - Kathi Bradt Jan brown thrasher (end) and honeysuckle (inv)
 - Jennifer Bland Feb TBD
 - Janet Slocum Apr 4 bumble bees and bittersweet
 - Mark Girard May New England Cottontail

- **Next Meeting – 11 January 2023**

- **Notes: Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) – “Let’s Be Clear” Campaign Overview 14 Dec 22**
 - Kirk Bishop provided an overview of the program.
 - Program focuses on the watershed for Lake Sunapee but the findings and recommendations would apply to any area in the U.S.
 - Kirk highlighted their research, education and collation efforts in establishing this program.
 - He stated that water quality has been declining. Gregg did research on our other water bodies and confirmed that the decline is in all our surface waters.
 - Kirk discussed the risks due to fertilizers, cleaning products, lack of proper erosion control, septic leakage, salt on roads and reduction of trees and vegetation.
 - He also talked about actions that everyone can take:
 - Phosphorous free fertilizers and cleaning products
 - Remove pet droppings within the 250’ protective shoreline area
 - Maintain vegetation buffer along shorelines
 - Reduce salt usage on roads
 - Check septic systems every 3 years and resolve any issues timely
 - Farmers – carefully manage the fertilization of crops that are close to perennial waters, ponds and lakes. Limit the risk of those products entering into the watershed sources. Also look for products that are less impactful.
 - Kirk also reviewed some actions that the town could consider:
 - Establish health regulations for septic inspections and repairs
 - Code enforcement of those regulations