

# Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes May 10, 2023

**Attendance:** Scott Travers, Kathi Bradt, Janet Slocum, Robin Ungeheuer, Gregg Thibodeau

**Absent:** Jennifer Bland, Mark Girard

**Review/approve Minutes of April 12, 2023:** Motion made by Janet; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott; motion passed unanimously.

- Kathi confirmed with Gregg that we understand that the Select Board representative's primary role on the ConCom should not include making motions. That should fall to the other members.

## Organizational

### • Member Update:

- Restated that Terry Melchior will not be able to be a member or an alternate until she has a residence in Acworth.
- Jennifer Griffin had a life event occur that will prevent her from participating as an alternate. Gregg has solicited Jennifer to see if she would be willing to support our efforts as a "volunteer" without any meeting expectations.
- Rob Traver a new Acworth resident was in attendance. Rob is very interested in supporting our town's conservation goals.

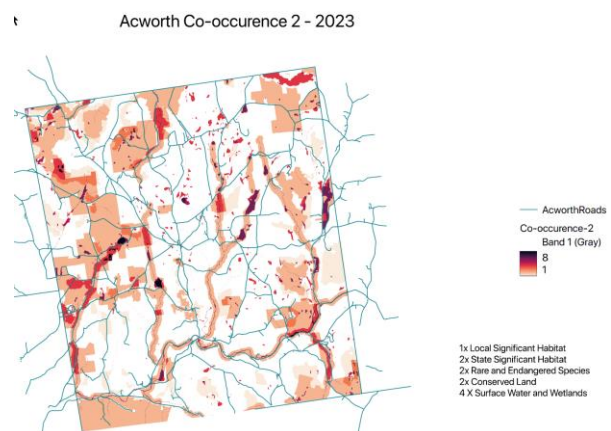
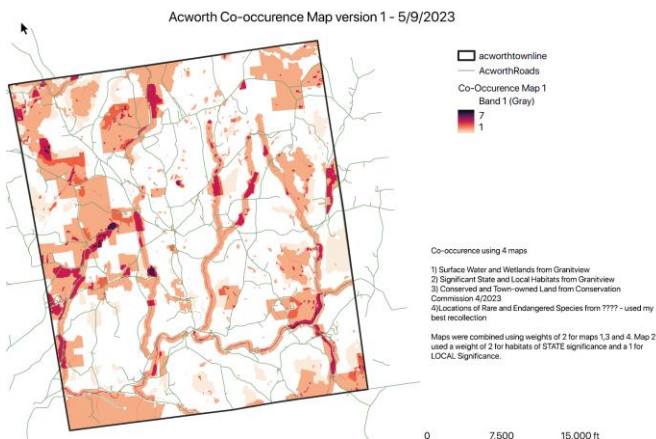
### • Funds/Budget

- Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,906.71 (+\$0.34 interest)
- Conservation Land Use Fund \$17,452.92 (+\$1.53 interest)

### • Conservation Plan

#### ○ Co-Occurrence Update

- Janet presented two versions of co-occurrences using 4 map criteria (*see below co-occurrence tables*).
  1. Surface Water and Wetlands from GRANITView
  2. Significant State and Local Habitats from GRANITView
  3. Conserved and Town-owned Land from Conservation Commission 4/2023
  4. Locations of Rare and Endangered Species – data source not yet identified; data provided by Janet's personal experience.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> version weighted the 4 aspects as follows:
  1. Local Significant Habitat 1x
  2. State Significant Habitat 2x
  3. Rare and Endangered Species 2x
  4. Conserved Land 2x
  5. Surface Water and Wetlands 4x
- Based on the discussion the commission agreed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> co-occurrence is closer to and accurate and meaningful assessment. We also agreed that this is also getting closer to enabling our prioritization of areas in town that we should focus our conservation efforts.
- We agree with Janet's suggestion to produce another version with more weight on the wetland and habitat criteria.



- Master Plan
  - Kathi made updates consolidating several pages into a succinct statement that illustrates the progression of the conservation statements in the master plan.
  - Commission members agreed that we should also include the current objectives but we should allow those to develop with the progress we make with the development of the Conservation Plan.
  - Gregg to send out the goals based on the recent joint board presentation.
- Hydrology Update
  - Gregg updated the Cold River portion with the description, location, monitoring, monitoring agencies and references.
  - Gregg will complete reordering this section to place watersheds at the top and list the components of the watershed and it's attributes. The key is the watershed.
- Assign other sections.
- **Bylaws** – No changes

## Forestry and Conservation

### ● Land Protection

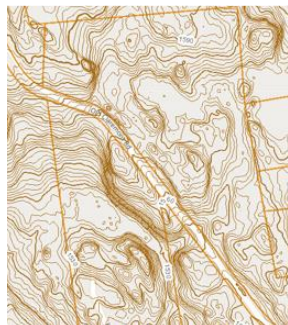
- Intents to Cut – We reviewed all 4 and did not have any reservations with the four proposed intents to cut.

1. Sirkin-Gove Road, 201/145; 30 acres of 100; 35K MBF, 60 tons of pulpwood; Leo Maslan logger
  - Habitat significance – 0
  - 2 perennial surface water areas and 1 intermittent stream



2. Bascom-Duncan Road, 242/10; 15 acres of 78; 21MBF, 15 tons of pulpwood; 15 cords cordwood; David Bascom logger
3. Hoagland-Hoagland Road, 233/5&6; 3 acres of 73; 10 MBF, 85 tons of pulpwood, 15 cords cordwood; David Bascom logger
4. Richards-Old Stage Road 229/71; 17 acres of 18 acres; 81K MBF, 140 tons of pulpwood, 20 cord cordwood; John Hopkins logger.

- Habitat - ranked 0
- Unknown assumed intermittent pond or wetland area.



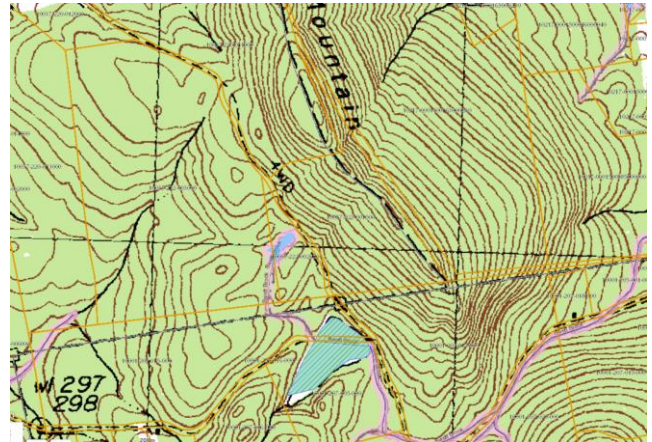
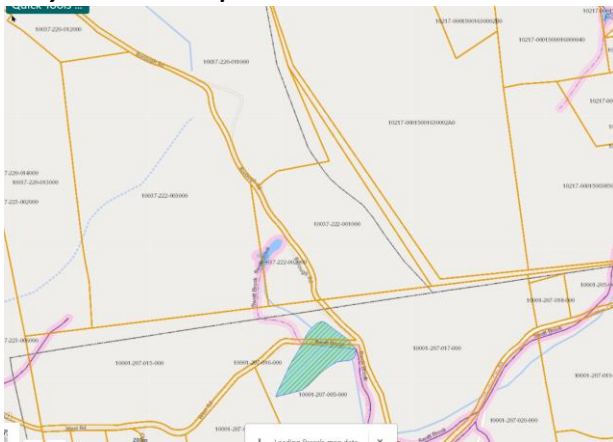
- We did agree that if we do have a concern that we would follow the following steps:
  - Confirm concern with a ConCom resource if possible.
  - If we cannot confirm the concern, then a notification of concern be provided to the landowner as an offer for assistance.

- If we can confirm via visual or map resources that we have our forester (Peter Rhoades or Jeff Snitkin) confirm and proposed next steps with the Concom and Select Board.
    - If a violation is in-progress, then a complaint to NH DES or NH Fish & Game will be initiated by the ConCom chairperson. NH Fish and Game if it is a time sensitive currently-occurring violation, NH DES if it is a continual violation.
  - Building, excavation, and other permits - None
    - Pierce Brook (Ernst) Property – Pending request to swap parcels in and out of the conservation easement.
  - Forestry complaints, concerns & other actions
    - Dodge Hollow Update – Plan created; diagram with measures pending.
    - Perry Mountain Update – See maps below.
  - Forester actions and plans – pending plan schedule from our forester
  - Surveyor action and plans - talked with surveyor (Peabody) 3/7; update pending as of 5/8.
  - Tree Warden actions and plans – none
  - Easement Monitoring – confirm 2023 assignments.
  - Town Owned Land Management
    - Update Prouty/Honey Brook Property - Map 250 lot 2
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
  - Permits – None
  - Crescent Lake Water Quality Project – NH DES, Crescent Lake Association, Natural Resources for Sullivan County, Unity, and Acworth Conservation Commissions; meetings on-going. Fair/forum being planned for 1 July; likely location will be the Unity Elementary School.

**Communications, Training and Outreach,**

- **Training-Education**
  - **Northern Woodlands** – articles on Logging Industry Study; Nocturnal Bird Migrations, Managing Forests for Pollinators, and many more - <https://northernwoodlands.org/issues/toc>
- **Community Outreach**
  - Volunteer Field Events – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
  - Educational topics – Climate Change Impacts; Coincide with work on the Conservation Plan
  - Commission Member Education Opportunity – Endangered and invasive species review
    - Mark Girard                      May      New England Cottontail
- **Next Meeting** – 14 June 2023

**Perry Mountain Maps**



**Conservation Commission Members:**

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