

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes April 13, 2022

Attendees:

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

Others Present: Kathi Brandt, Sandra Binion, Janet Slocum, Terry Mattson

Minutes of March 16, 2022 - *Reviewed and approved. Submitted 4/14 to town clerk for posting.*

Staff Change

- Selectpersons have asked if we have any recommendations for new member appointments. This is an annual consideration after each town meeting.
- *At this point we do not have a recommendation for appointment; however, we reviewed our previously defined plans to follow-up with Liz Cubberley after her graduation in May. GT sent Liz an e-mail on 11 April.*

Forestry, Town Forests & Other Conservation

- Town Forests: Jeff Snitkin is interested in the opportunity of becoming our new town forester. GT contacted Charlestown for a reference, and they have been very pleased with all his work over the past 3 years.
 - *GT to invite Jeff Snitkin in for a session with the commission. Have Jeff review his recommendations.*
 - *GT to check with Jeff and Peter Rhoades to determine if Jeff would also do the timber assessments for our intents to cut. Approximately 20 per year.*
 - *GT to follow-up with Charlotte to determine the process to appoint a new town forester.*
- 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.
 - *We would prefer to have these survey accomplished in the early part of this year to enable our planned community events.*
 - *ST to contact Travis Royce to see if he would be interested in this work.*
 - *GT to follow-up with Charlotte for surveyor Dobrowsky's contact information.*

Finance-Budget

- **Available Funds**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,904.82 (+\$0.03 interest only)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund: \$12,129.62 (+\$0.10 interest only)
- **Projector Update** – Projector purchased with donated funds. Waiting for a ship date.

Complaints, Concerns & Other Actions

- Keyes Hollow Road Update– No change
 - **Action Required:** Gregg to retrieve north camera.
- 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); ****New**** complaint with possible crossings (Brenneman and Trybulski).
 - *JJ to follow-up with NH Fish & Game to ask them to confirm if there are any impacts to the stream.*

Review Intents to Cut – None

Town Owned Land Recommendations

(Handout)

- 5 parcels were submitted to the Board of Selectmen 20 March 2022.
- We have 8 parcels that have not been assessed. One (1) of the 9 has a “keep for conservation” from the 2019 assessment.
- *Group will start reviewing the remaining 8 properties over the next couple of meetings.*

Easement Monitoring

- All 2021 monitoring is complete. 2022 monitoring due 28 Nov 2022.

Outreach, Communications & Volunteer Events

- Develop volunteer program activities
 - Confirmed: Keyes Hollow Nature Trail Cleanup will be one of our targets for 2022.
 - *GT has asked for someone that might be interested in leading this effort. To be reviewed again at our next meeting.*
 - Confirmed: 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.*
 - In-Progress: Green-Up day 23 April. Newsletter article created; bags available; coordination with town crews being worked on by JB.
 - *JB confirmed that flyers were in place, and she will post to Facebook. Bags are available in the town office. JB will post a sign-up sheet in the town hall. JB confirmed that the town crew is prepared to support the pickup on Monday.*
 - *GT informed commission that Crane Brook area will not be able to be cleaned due to construction. Once construction is complete GT asked Liz Bascom to let us know if we need another cleanup organized.*
 - Confirmed: Sponsored use of iNaturalist will be the 4th way that we reach out to the community in 2022.
 - *GT to take the lead on this effort.*
- Develop educational series
 - Effects of Climate Change and What You Can Do
 - *GT to take the lead on coordinating a speaker and date that this can be arranged in our town hall.*
 - Acworth Natural Resources Inventory
 - *Pending 80% completion of Janet's work on the index of our natural resources.*
 - **iNaturalist** rollout to the community – *GT to take the lead on this.*
 - Recommendation: Reach out to Fred Ernst for possible educational session. To be discussed with JB to contact Fred. – *JB to follow-up with Fred to see if he would provide an educational session to the town.*

Other business

- Conservation Commission Bylaws & Commission Roles Gregg
 - **HOMEWORK:** GT asked the commission to review the by-laws and provide feedback at our next meeting.
 - *Motion made by GT to review the bylaws over a 3-4 month period at these meetings. Create a list of changes and make one major revision. After the one revision individual amendments would be required for any subsequent changes. Mark 2nd. Passed.*
- Review new Conservation Land Value Assessment form *(Handout previously provided)*
 - **HOMEWORK:** GT asked the commission to review this form and provide feedback at our next meeting.
 - *Did not review. Will be added to next months agenda.*
- Index list of all natural resources Janet
 - Janet to provide an update.
 - *JS stated that she is about 2 weeks away from completing the list. JS also stated that the list will be very extensive.*
- Standard Set of Maps
 - We received a drop of 19 maps from Mark Goodwin. Janet and I will be going through these to determine which ones meet our needs.

Map Description	Currency & Source	Action Required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Composite	2020 -	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topographical	1998 – USGS	Consists of 4 USGS maps; need more current and consolidated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 (WAP) Review Liz
 - *GT send a request for an update to Liz on 4/11.*
 - *GT to send link to WAP to JB and MG to review.*

Non-Public Discussion – *No topics to discuss. GT to review non-public procedures.*

Next Meeting - 11 May 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, pamscotttdave@gmail.com (603) 863-6636

Acworth Town Properties

Dated: 12-Apr-22

#	Name	Map/Lot	Road	Acreage	Assessment (as of Jan 2021)	2021 Recommendations	Notes	Type	Recommended Actions
14	Owner unknown	210-20.1	Near Cold Pond Road	2.1	\$ 3,200	Pending Review	Land-locked; No road access	Tax Deed	Assess
16	Owner unknown	222-21	Near Turkey Shoot Rd	4.4	\$ 3,600	Pending Review	Land-locked; No road access	Tax Deed	Assess
19	Ball	230-3	Five Points Trail	11.9	\$ 12,000	Pending Review	Five Points Trail; 1 lot east of five points	Tax Deed	Assess
21	Callum	234-18	Near Derry Hill Road	2.9	\$ 32,200	Pending Review	Land-locked; No road access	Tax Deed	Assess
22	Owner unknown	234-19	Derry Hill Road	20	\$ 45,900	Pending Review		Tax Deed	Assess
23	Roberts	236-10	River Road	7.4	\$ 42,000	Pending Review		Tax Deed	Assess
24	Prouty	250-2	Near 123A	25	\$ 6,900	Keep for conservation	Lempster border and State of NH Honey Brook State Park; Land locked; no road access	Tax Deed	Assess - possible designate as town forest
25	Stebbins Road	229-58	Stebbins Road	1.1	\$ 10,800	Pending Review		Gift or Purchase	Assess