Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes April 12, 2023

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

Griffin

Not present: Mark Girard, Terry Mattson

Other Attendees: None

Motion made by Scott to approve Minutes of March 8, 2023; seconded by Janet; motion passed.

Organizational

• Member Update – Terry is currently not a resident of Acworth. It may be a while before their home on Crescent Lake Road is ready. Terry will be attending our meetings as a volunteer and vacate the alternate position that she was in.

• Jennifer B intends to stay in the commission and wishes to continue in her role as co-chair. General consensus confirmed Jen's role.

Funds/Budget

Forest Maintenance Fund
 Conservation Land Use Fund
 \$3,906.37 (+\$0.30 interest)
 (+\$1.34 interest)

• Expenses pending in 2023 include (1) surveyor for the 2 lots on Crescent Lake and a (2) forest management plan for the South Acworth forest.

Conservation Plan

- Co-Occurrence Update (Janet)
 - Consensus achieved to utilize the prioritized habitat from Fish and Game, along with the National Wetland Inventory and ideally, we would like rare and endangered species however it's unlikely because that information is not widely shared to protect the species.
 - We also agreed that current use and even the conserved lands are useful but could probably be leveraged after the initial co-occurrences have been established.
 - A discussion also included recreation attributes, such as scenic areas and trails. It was agreed
 that at this time our ConCom efforts would remain focused on conservation and not on
 recreation. Water quality, our forests, wetlands and wildlife habitats remain the priority topics.
- Hydrology Update (Gregg) completed the Crescent Lake section and continues to work on the other major water features. Recommendation was made by Jennifer G. to group the water features by watershed. This would illustrate the important alignment between small streams, rivers, ponds and lakes to our watersheds. Gregg to make the changes for our next meeting.
- Master Plan (Kathi) In general we agreed to remove the natural resource descriptions from the Master Plan. Those descriptions could be leveraged in the Conservation Plan. The master plan will focus on the commissions intents and efforts associated with the 4 key focus areas, water quality, forests, wetlands and wildlife habitats. Kathi will continue to work with the master plan effort to update our ConCom portion.
- Current Status (GT) The commission agreed in general that having a scorecard and publishing it annually in our Conservation Plan and the Annual Town Report would be beneficial.
- **Bylaws** No changes

Forestry and Conservation

- Land Protection
 - o Intents to Cut None
 - Building, excavation, and other permits
 - DES Wetlands Emergency Authorization (EA) FEMA work on Crane Brook and Charlestown roads – Work was deemed "in compliance". DES closing the files. No further actions.
 - o Forestry complaints, concerns & other actions
 - Dodge Hollow Update Plan created; diagram with measures pending.

- Lempster Drift Track reviewed the circumstances and my initial findings that found minimal to low risk for Acworth's conservation.
- o 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 talked with surveyor (Peabody) 3/7 -Pending an Update
- Tree Warden actions and plans none
- Easement Monitoring Confirmed our 2023 assignments.
- o Town Owned Land Management
 - Update Prouty/Honey Brook Property Map 250 lot 2
 - We did not get to this topic. This will be addressed at our May meeting.
- Water Protection (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - o Permits None
 - Crescent Lake Water Quality Project NH DES, Crescent Lake Association, Natural Resources for Sullivan County, Unity, and Acworth Conservation Commissions; meeting on Friday, 4/14 1-2:30pm

Communications, Training and Outreach,

- **Training-Education** Gregg provided the ConCom with a list of training opportunities via e-mail. A similar list was provided to the town, via the town webpage.
- Community Outreach
 - Volunteer Field Events Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
 - Educational events Climate Change Impacts
 - o Commission Member Education Opportunity Endangered and invasive species review
 - Janet Slocum Apr 4 bumble bees and bittersweet
 - Janet provided a great overview of some of our essential pollinators and provided the group with a very good overview of the invasive bittersweet plant.
 - Mark Girard May New England Cottontail
- Next Meeting 10 May 2023

Conservation Commission Members:

- Jennifer Bland, <u>jlb1365@att.net</u> 860-601-2223
- Gregg Thibodeau, Gregg@thibodeaufamily.com 860-338-3227
- Kathi Bradt, Select Board Rep, kashradt@msn.com, 835-2567
- Mark Girard, gothabitat@yahoo.com 603-851-2785
- Scott Travers, pamscottdave@gmail.com (603) 863-6636
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