

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes August 10, 2022

Member Attendance: Jennifer Bland, Terry Mattson (alt), Scott Travers, Mark Girard, Kathi Brandt, Gregg Thibodeau

Other Attendance: Robin Westcott Ungeheuer

Minutes of July 13, 2022, were passed; motion made Jennifer; 2nd by Scott

Membership – Recommendation to accept Terry Mattson as an alternate member of the commission was accepted by the Select Board. Welcome Terry!

Forestry, Town Forests & Other Conservation

- Town Forester –**Action Item:** Recommend hiring Jeff Snitkin as our town forester to the Select Board on 15 August. (Gregg)
- Surveyor for Possible New Town Forest Parcels Map (Map 201, 107 and 108)
 - Received an estimate from Travis Royce/Chris Paton - \$7000-\$7500 (Scott)
 - Estimate received from Dombrowski, \$5000-\$7000. Conduct research this summer & conduct the survey work fall/winter (Gregg)
 - D'ibernado surveyors indicating that they could not do anything with us until next 2023. (Jennifer)
 - 2nd request for an estimate sent to Eric Peabody on 8 Aug. eric@greentoplansurveying.com; 603-477-7422 (Gregg)

Finance-Budget

- **Available Funds**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,904.96 (+\$0.04 interest)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund: \$15,845.08 (+\$0.14 interest)
 - Current use change funding is pending for approx. \$1,600.

Complaints, Concerns & Other Actions

- Complaint: Dodge Hollow Obstruction of ROW (see letter handout, dated 25 July 2022)
 - **Action Items:**
 - Continue to recommend people that they contact the state police if the right-of-way on any Class VI Road or Class A trail is being obstructed.
 - Gregg to complete response letter to Mr. Maynard.
 - Gregg forward incident to Select Board on 8/15.
 - Gregg to draft a plan for parking area adjacent to the proposed gate and on the Brown property (map 238 lot 4)
 - Board to draft an abutters letter based on the draft plan
 - Map 238 lot 2 – Dimarzio
 - Map 238 lot 3 - Bassinne
 - Map 238 lot 4 – Brown Revocable Trust
 - Map 238 lot 7 – Taylor Grant
 - Gregg to organize an on-site review of the parking area for the abutters
 - Gregg to create a profile of the area to add to the town's file on Dodge Hollow Road.
 - Jen to contact the state police and review the town's file on Dodge Hollow Road.
 - Kathi to look for an official survey of the properties in question.
 - Legal actions were discussed. An option was raised to review the profile of the area along with the actions taken by all parties to obtain a legal assessment and recommendation.
- DES Notice Received: LRM File # 2022-00065 – Palmer (209-15), Heino Road

Review Intents to Cut

- No issues were found with the Travers/Sylvan Pond, Beech Road, map 216 lot 9 intent to cut.

- Role of the Town regarding Intents to Cut – We reviewed documentation from the NH Municipal Association that clearly stated that the towns cannot not approve a permit. That the state and federal government have many controls in place that regulate this industry. That said the landowner still has to make sure that they are in compliance with all wetland and other conservation regulations for erosion, dredging, etc.
- We agreed that ConCom would conduct a map assessment of each property for wetlands, floodplains etc. to ensure that the landowner took the appropriate actions for approvals.

Town Owned Land Recommendations

- **Map 250 lot 2** – (Gregg) Work NH Division of Forest and Lands, possibly adding the property into Honey Brook State Park. NH is sending out an assessor to review the property. **Action Item:** Follow-up with Charlotte to determine if there is any tax or land value implications. (Gregg)
- **Map 230 lot 3-Ball** – **Action Item:** Jennifer completed the form and will post to our shared page.
- **Map 222-21, 234-19 and 234-18** – Concom map assessment completed. **Action Item:** Janet to review her analysis at our next meeting.
- **Map 236-10-Roberts/River Rd** – Mark completed his assessment and it's the consensus of the ConCom that this property will not be offered for auction or sale. **Action Item:** Janet to complete a map assessment for documentation purposes.
- **Action Item:** Gregg will update our worksheet for all the above items.

Easement Monitoring

- All 2022 monitoring due NLT 28 Nov 2022.
- LCIP/CLS visit completed on July 26th for 5 of the LCIP held properties. We reviewed their assessment.

Outreach, Communications & Volunteer Events

- Develop volunteer program activities
 - Keyes Hollow Nature Trail Cleanup will be one of our targets for 2022. Best time for this would be 2nd or 3rd week of September and should be held on a weekend. Coordinate schedule (Gregg).
 - 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.
- Develop educational series
 - iNaturalist Rollout (Gregg)
 - Effects of Climate Change and What You Can Do Presentation (Gregg)
 - Wild Fowl Habitat Education Session (Jennifer)

Other business

- Conservation Commission Bylaws Review – following changes were noted:
 - 12:01 - Representative on the planning board is “as needed”
 - 12:01 – Change “Two or more” to “One or more”
 - 12:02 – “Acworth Conservation Zone” to read “perennial water”
 - 12:02 – “Excavation:...” to be part of the concom’s duties and responsibilities.
 - Add Intents to Cut to duties and responsibilities – along with specified procedures.
 - 12:03 – Make this optional, as required.
 - 12:03 – add town forest management to the ConCom responsibilities
 - 12:04 – add town owned lands to the ConCom responsibilities
 - 13:07 – change to read “simple majority”
 - 13:09 – change agenda to represent our current agenda
 - Article 15 – add that the change must state the reason for the change
 - **Action Item:** Gregg to make all the updates for one final review and subsequent publication.
- Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) – Possible ConCom meeting visit. (Terry) Not covered. Add to next agenda.
- Cold River Advisory (CRA) – They meet 3rd Thursday. Goal would be to re-establish information flow between our groups. At a minimum we would like to receive meeting minutes and their annual report. (TBD Resource)

- **Commission Member Education Opportunity** – Endangered and invasive species review
 - Roster
 - Janet Slocum Aug 4 bumble bees and bittersweet
 - Mark Girard Sep TBD
 - Kathi Brandt Oct brown thrasher (end) and honeysuckle (inv)
 - Jennifer Bland Nov TBD

Next Meeting – 14 September 2022