

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes October 12, 2022

Attendees: Scott Travers, Kathi Bradt, Mark Girard, Janet Slocum, Gregg Thibodeau

Others: Robin Westcott-Ungeheuer

Minutes of September 14, 2022 – reviewed and noted a change to add Janet Slocum to the attendees and note that MT did not get to review the New England Cottontail. GT to make changes. Motion made by MG to accept notes with the above changes. 2nd by JS. Motion passed.

Action: GT to publish version 2 with changes and post

Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**

- Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,905.02 (+\$0.03 interest)
- Conservation Land Use Fund: \$17,445.36 (+\$0.15 interest)

- **Key Artifact/Policy Updates** – Natural Resources Inventory, By-laws and the town Conservation Plan (if any)

- Conservation Plan creation (*handout*)
 - Master Plan Discussion - Discussion occurred regarding the relationship of the Conservation Plan to the Master Plan's conservation notes.
 - KB mentioned that the master plan is the authority artifact that provides confirmation for approved efforts and direction.
 - GT suggested that the intent between the master plan and the conservation plan would be that the conservation plan would have all the details regarding our natural resources and efforts. The master plan would contain a summary that would highlight the direction and focus items from the conservation plan.
 - It was agreed that we should review the master plan's conservation notes and ensure that the 2 artifacts are supportive and do not cause any discrepancies or conflicts.
 - KB suggested that we might want to consult with Mike Aron. Mike is the subject matter expert on the guidance for the master plan.
 - **Action: KB** to review the current master plan and our intent for the conservation plan and recommend how the two would work together.
 - Use of Co-Occurrences for Prioritization
 - GT walked the team with a co-occurrence map and logic and how that could be utilized to assist with our prioritization of our natural resources.
 - GT and MG stated that we would want to revisit the criteria that was utilized in the 2004 co-occurrence effort.
 - **Action: JS** to determine what is the criteria that we could utilize from GranitVIEW for our selection. We would review the options at our Dec 14th meeting.
 - Natural Resources
 - We had general agreement that this plan would outline the top 10 or 20 natural resources with more detailed information as was illustrated by the Crescent Lake example.
 - Cultural, recreation and other resources
 - ST raised a concern that unlike the natural resources the Concom may not play an active role in managing those other resources.
 - ST also suggested that we should focus on the natural resources and not necessarily these other resources.
 - General agreement that our focus should be our natural resources.
 - Construction
 - Goal would be to complete the plan in the March-April 2023 timeline.
 - We could focus on some of the most important parts first

- Establish prioritized list of our natural resources using co-occurrences, our natural resource index and inventory.
- Define our mission, purpose, priorities, master plan summary and 3-5-10 year plan.
- Complete the detailed section for each of our top 10-20 resources.
- By-laws Final Version Review (*handout*)
 - Determine if ConCom should be required to review excavation permits as noted in 12:03
 - 155 E:1 designates the planning board as the regulator.
 - **Action: GT** to review 155E and share results at our next meeting.
 - Members also agreed that at most our Concom would only ask to be copied in on the applications and provide any feedback to the planning board regarding any compliance issues in accordance with RSA 155 E:4-a Minimum and Express Operational Standards and RSA 482 A:15 Local Option; Prime Wetlands.
 - **Action: GT** to make recommendation changes for a final review in December.

Forestry and Conservation

• Land Protection

- Intents to Cut - None
- Building, excavation, and other permits **DID NOT ADDRESS (DNA); ADDED TO NOV AGENDA**
 - Permit by Notification (PBN) – 244-2 Bascom (*file*)
 - Permit by Notification (PBN) – 216-9 Travers (*file*)
- Forestry complaints, concerns & other actions **DNA; ADDED TO NOV AGENDA**
 - Dodge Hollow Update - **Action: GT** to create a plan
 - Perry Mountain (GT, ST) – Completed assessment; (*review file*)
- Forester actions and plans (GT, MG)
 - MG reviewed the high-level schedule plan that will also defines some of the revenue/finance aspects.
 - **Action: MG** to prepare a written document for our December meeting.
 - GT expressed the need for our Concom to outline our goals for the forester regarding forest management. **Action Item: ST/MG** to create draft list of goals for our forest management
- Surveyor action and plans – Review Green Top Proposal (*review file*)
 - Eric Peabody estimate received, \$6400. [Green Top Survey Proposal](#)
 - Motion made by MG and 2nd by ST to go with Green Top Survey. Motion passed.
 - **Action: GT** to notify Eric and request a formal invoice.
 - **Action: GT** to notify the selectboard
 - **Action: GT** to coordinate a walk of the properties with Eric.
 - **Action: MG** to obtain estimates for additional boundary markers.
- Tree Warden actions and plans – None **DNA; ADDED TO DEC AGENDA**
- Easement Monitoring **DNA; ADDED TO NOV AGENDA**
 - All 2022 monitoring due NLT 28 Nov 2022.
- Town Owned Land Management
 - Map 250 lot 2 – Determine next step – (*review file*)
 - Members reviewed the 4 options (state park gift, land trust gift w/conservation easement, keep the land ownership w/conservation easement, or keep land with no further actions.
 - Motion made by JS, 2nd by ST to gift the land to the state to be added to the Honey Brook State Park with an agreement that the deed would state that if the state ever wanted to take the land out of the park Acworth would again own the property. Motion passed.
 - Map 230 lot 3-Ball – JB to complete conservation land assessment form **DNA; ADDED TO DEC AGENDA**

- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Monitoring efforts – NH DES Cold River Monitoring Overview scheduled for Nov 9th; 45 minutes
 - Members are looking forward to this overview.
 - **Action:** NH DES will be inviting all the ConCom’s along Cold River and the Cold River Advisory (CRA).
 - **Action:** GT to reestablish our role/relationship with CRA
 - Permits – Dion Wetland Permit **DNA; ADDED TO NOV AGENDA**
 - Complaints, concerns, and other actions
 - Dodge Brook turbidity concerns – CLOSED
 - GT stated that the cloudiness cleared after about 6-8 weeks. MG stated that this could have been due in part to the low water levels caused by our summer drought.

Communications, Training and Outreach,

- **Community Outreach**
 - Volunteer events
 - Educational events **DNA; ADDED TO NOV AGENDA**
 - iNaturalist Rollout (*GT – Slide*)
 - Effects of Climate Change and What You Can Do Presentation (Gregg)
 - Share Wild Fowl Habitat Information from Fred Ernst (Jennifer)
 - December - Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) – “Let’s Be Clear” Campaign Overview. (TM) – Asking to start at 6pm instead of 7pm.
- Upcoming seminars, online workshops, guest speakers, etc. **DNA; ADDED TO DEC AGENDA**
- Commission Member Education Opportunity – Endangered and invasive species review

▪ None	Nov	NHDES is presenting an overview of the Cold River Monitoring
▪ Kathi Bradt	Dec	brown thrasher (end) and honeysuckle (inv)
▪ Jennifer Bland	Jan	TBD
▪ Janet Slocum	Feb	4 bumble bees and bittersweet
▪ Mark Girard	Mar	New England Cottontail

Next Meeting – 9 November 2022