

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes August 9, 2023

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

Absent: Jennifer Bland, Mark Girard

Guests: Rob Traver

Meeting came to order 1902.

Review/approve minutes of July 12, 2023

- Minutes were reviewed JS made a motion to approve RU seconded – minutes approved.

Organizational

- New Member: Recommendation to add Rob as a member will be presented at the next Select Board meeting.
- **Funds/Budget**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,907.69 (+\$0.34 interest)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund \$17,457.27 (+\$1.48 interest)
 - RT recommended that we look into using short term CD's for our fund balances to get a better return.
 - **Action Item:** GT to check with town Treasurer.
- **Conservation Plan**
 - Hydrology Update – GT reviewed the updates and changes made since July. The following changes were identified. **Action Item:** GT to make final updates; members to review and determine if other changes need to be made.
 - Under general description ensure we have definition of major, minor and reference unnamed streams.
 - Add Crescent Lake Association to Watershed #1's list of references.
 - Correct spelling of Milliken Brook in Watershed #2.
 - Master Plan & Forest (KB) – **Action Item:** JS to provide updated maps for this section. GT to post updated section to the Conservation Plan once maps are updated.
 - Natural Resources (JS)
 - **Action Item:** All members review the NRI phase 1 report done in 2001 – [OneDrive Link](#)
 - We reviewed area of significance map & the Priority Natural Resources which describes what is in each area of significance. Members agreed that this solution enables us to identify the areas in town that we want to focus our commission actions and prioritize them.
 - **Action Item:** JS to draft some groupings of some of the areas based on what is likely the way we would approach efforts in those grouped areas.
 - **Action Item:** GT to create an overview of topics that we would like to consider in our prioritization, together with the grouped areas we should be able to determine our recommended priorities In September.
 - Rare, Endangered and Invasive Species (RT) - RT to provide an overview of his work on these topics.
 - Geology (RU) – RU is working with data from USDA/NRCS and JS/GRANITView data in an effort to provide updated maps for inclusion in our Conservation Plan.
 - **Action Item:** RU to determine if a further refinement of the USDA data is possible or if we need to utilize the data as is. Either approach could work.
 - **Action Item:** RU to determine if we should use the USDA geology/soils description or the descriptions provided in the 1979-2019 master plan.
 - An important goal of our Conservation Plan is to enable the handoff of references, goals, actions, etc. from commission to commission.
- **Bylaws** – No changes

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**
 - Intents to Cut

1. 23-001-12-T – Parson’s Road, map 243 lot 3, 16 of 37 acres, Bruce Bascom (owner), David Bascom, 38 MBF hardwood, 80 ton of pulpwood, 80 cords of cordwood. Approved by the Select Board. *Conservation Commission found no concerns with this cut.*
 2. 23-001-13-T – Quaker City Road, map 218-10, 8 of 225 acres, Stephen Krivoschik, Joshua Provencher, 20 cords of cordwood. Approved by the Select Board. *Conservation Commission found no concerns with this cut.*
- Building, excavation, and other permits - None
 - Forestry complaints, concerns & other actions
 - Dodge Hollow Update – Plan created; diagram with measures pending; reviewed with the commission.
 - Crescent Lake – Map 201 Lot 92 – Dishong dock lift possible violation. Complaint issued, file # 2023-01750.
 - Forester actions and plans – complete final review proposed plan and cost from the forester for the South Acworth Forest. MG Input - climate change, timber value and successional forest can be built into the plan based on this work order language. Review work order (04); *Motion made by GT to accept the work order as stated; 2nd by JS; motion passed.*
 - **Action Item:** GT to check with Charlotte for the process we need to follow to engage Jeff and pay him.
 - Surveyor action and plans – Eric to schedule a review with KB and GT to review some issues that were identified in the survey. **Action Item:** GT to follow-up with Eric.
 - Tree Warden actions and plans – none
 - Easement Monitoring – 2023 assignments confirmed. **Action Item:** Assigned representatives – complete monitoring prior to the December holiday season.
 - Town Owned Land Management
 - Update Prouty/Honey Brook Property - Map 250 lot 2 – No Change. Deed drafted. NH DOJ has to review and then it will go to the Governor to be signed. **Action item:** GT to continue to follow-up with the state representative.
 - **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Crescent Lake Water Quality Project Update - First full committee meeting on 8/10.

Communications, Training and Outreach,

- **Training-Education**
- **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 September New England Cottontail
- **Next Meeting** – 13 September 2023 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Motion made (ST) and 2nd (JS) to close the meeting at 8:22pm. Motion passed.

Conservation Commission Members:

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- Gregg Thibodeau, Gregg@thibodeaufamily.com 860-338-3227
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