

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes November 13, 2024

Present: Gregg Thibodeau, Ryanne Schoonover (Select Board Representative), Lisa Hyatt, Rob Traver

Absent: Mark Girard, Janet Slocum, Jennifer Bland, Robin Ungeheuer

Public Attendance: none

The meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

Review/approve minutes of October 9, 2024 – Motion made by Ryanne, and 2nd by Rob. The minutes were approved.

Public Topics – None

Organizational

- Lisa Hyatt is a voting member for this meeting giving us a quorum for any motion or voting needs.
- **Funds/Budget**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,912.59 (+ \$0.32 interest)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund \$23,585.07 (+ \$2411.89 interest)
 - \$200 reimbursement posted from Orchard Hill
 - \$2210 credit from Land Use Change Tax
 - \$1.89 interest credit
- **By-Laws** – Members reviewed Rob’s comments and provided additional feedback.
 - Gregg to make updates to articles, 8, 10, 12, and 13.
 - Ryanne to provide language for 13:07 and 13:08
 - Current Bylaws - [Bylaws of the Acworth Conservation Commission - November 2024.docx](#)
- **Conservation Plan**
 - We reviewed the feedback from 2 of the 3 respondents. **Action Items:** Gregg to run the plan through Grammarly. Rob to review Stella’s feedback and identify significant points of clarification or discussion for our members.
 - We agreed to table the decision regarding the geology narrative that Lindley provided at our next meeting.

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**
 - Intents to Cut – we reviewed the six (6) cuts -#’s 8,9,10,11, 12, 13
 - #’s 8, 9,10, 11 we had no concerns with.
 - # 12 Underwood Rd., map 227 lots 7 and 10 intends to cut 156 acres of 158 acres and has sections rated as highest ranked habitat in the region, highest ranked habitat in NH with some small areas of shrub wetland. There is a brook on the property, but it is not protected by the Department of Environmental Services (DES).
 - #13 Stebens Road, map 233 lot 20 did not have any highest ranked habitat (region or NH) but does have Milliken Brook on the eastern side has some protection under NH Forest and Lands timber harvesting laws - <https://www.nhdfi.dncr.nh.gov/forest-protection/timber-harvesting-laws>
 - Permits/complaints – none
 - South Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – Rob, Gregg, and Mark will be meeting with Jeff Snitkin (forester) to discuss and determine the type of logging and equipment. We will also discuss the value of the expected harvest and landing zone options. An estimate of the road construction costs of \$21k has raised some concerns that will be addressed in the options discussion.
 - Land Surveys - Crescent Lake (map 201, lots 107 and 108) – Kathi and Gregg have had 2 sessions with Eric (surveyor) and have identified 10-12 areas/boundaries that may require boundary adjustments or agreements and with those potential legal fees. The question was asked if the legal fees would be paid out of the budget legal fees line item or from Concom’s budget. Gregg assumes it could come from either or both funding sources.
 - Easement Monitoring -Pan-Northern Pierce Brook SPNHF (Jen) – meet-and-greet introductory session pending. JB will follow up with Mr. Osgood about a date.

- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Keyes Hollow HVA actions – Rob and Gregg have identified some towns that have conducted wetland assessments. Rob has had discussions and is starting to also identify possible funding sources. Anna White from Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UPLSRPC) has also made contact with us to discuss our funding needs (estimated \$50K) and federal funding that has the intent of mitigating flooding risk in Acworth. Improving Keyes Hollow wetland may qualify for this funding. Rob and Gregg to discuss this with Anna.
 - Crescent Lake Water Quality update – Stone Environmental began the watershed assessment with a shoreline review of properties. On the week of 18 November Stone will begin an assessment of Crescent Lake Road, its culverts, ditches, drainage, etc. Stone will meet with Jennifer Bland and Collin Crosby.

Communications, Training and Outreach

- **Community Outreach**
 - Newsletter
 - Janet is responsible for the article(s) for the December town newsletter. **Action Item:** Gregg will follow up with Janet. Article due to newsletter by 20 November.
 - Topics to consider for future letters: seasonal relevant topic for Oct/Nov, iNaturalist; library corner
 - Other educational topics: Climate change impacts; shoreland and wetland restrictions/limitations/requirements, property conservation options,
 - Volunteer Field Events – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
 - Lisa suggested that we start an outreach program in the spring with announcements of our intent.

- **Next Meeting** – 11 December at 7 pm in the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Conservation Commission Members:

- Jennifer Bland (co-chair)
- Gregg Thibodeau (co-chair)
- RYANNE SCHOONOVER, (Select Board rep.)
- Mark Girard
- Janet Slocum
- Rob Traver
- Robin Ungeheuer (alt)
- Lisa Hyatt (alt)

Contact information:

- Webpage <https://www.acworthnh.net/conservation-commission>
- E-mail acworthconservation@gmail.com
- Meeting 7:00 p.m. every 2nd Wednesday of month at the Town Hall
- Mail 13 Town Hall Rd., P.O. Box 37, Acworth, NH 03601, Attention: Conservation Commission
- Phone 603-835-6879 (town office)