

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes July 10, 2024

Present: Scott Travers, Gregg Thibodeau, Ryanne Schoonover (Select Board Representative) , Lisa Hyatt, Rob Traver, Janet Slocum, Jennifer Bland

Absent: Mark Girard, Robin Ungeheuer

Public Attendance: None

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Review/approve minutes of June 12, 2024 - minutes were approved with the correction to the date and removal of some information with regard's Halls Pond discussion. JS made a motion to approve the minutes, RS seconded it. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Topics – None

Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**

- Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,911.28 (+ \$0.34 interest)
- Conservation Land Use Fund \$21,050.25 (+ \$1.84 interest)
 - Turbidity meter expense should show up in the next statement and we received a shipment from the vendor.
 - Additional deposits from the Land Tax Changes should also post in our next statement.
 - Orchard Donation will come from this year's conservation appropriated amount.
- ST had a question regarding what was included in the \$17,000 2024 appropriation. GT will resend our budget out to Concom members.

- **Staff**

- Approve co-chairs (motion) – motion made (RT) to approve current chairs. Second (ST). Motion passed.
- Review By laws for Aug (any changes – Gregg to send out link to by-laws and ask folks to review prior to our August meeting, where a motion and vote will be considered.

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**

- Intents to Cut - none
- Permits/complaints
 - Clark-Perry Mt- Halls Pond – town attorney engaged to advise next steps
- South Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – forest management plan pending. ST recommended that we consider creating slash walls in our harvest. GT asked for a handout or information that can be provided so we can see what this looks like, ST advised there has been controlled studies done on this.
- Land Surveys - Crescent Lake (map 201, lots 107 and 108) – _letter sent, response due in August. If there is no response from the surveyor, then we will move on with another surveyor.
- Easement Monitoring -Pan-Northern Pierce Brook SPNHF (Jen) – meet-and-greet introductory session. JB will follow up with Mr. Osgood about a date.
- Update Prouty/Honey Brook Property - Map 250 lot 2 – _Governor and Council approved. Next step is to have the select board sign.

- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)

- Keyes Hollow HVA actions – Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) engaged; question regarding prime wetland designation benefits RT will follow-up to identify other towns that have completed a wetland assessment.
- Crescent Lake Water Quality update – vendors for an assessment to create a watershed management plan have been narrowed down to one vendor, Stone Environmental. This will advise what the health and quality of water is on Crescent Lake. Water Quality Group may be reaching out to both Unity and Acworth Concom's for donations to assist with the \$52,000+ expense. GT will keep us updated. We keep Crescent Lake clean then that will help Cold River to stay clean.

- Dodge Brook Possible Sediment Issues – It was noted by GT and MG that at times Dodge appears to have turbidity issues. Lynda Perry (Lempster Concom Chair) did some investigating, and the sediment may be coming from the BMX racetrack in Lempster. Gregg to follow-up with Lynda to offer use of our turbidity meter.

Communications, Training and Outreach

• Community Outreach

- Newsletter – GT reviewed assignments to produce our quarterly newsletter. Sep – Robin and Jen. Dec – Janet and Scott, Apr 2025 – Lisa and Mark, Aug 2025 – Gregg and Rob
- Topics to consider: (1) seasonal relevant topic for Oct/Nov, iNaturalist; library corner, GT to create an article on South Acworth Forest.
- Other educational topics: Climate change impacts; shoreland and wetland restrictions/limitations/requirements, property conservation options,
- Master Plan Survey identified the number one concern was conserving land. It was agreed that our role is not to require landowners to conserve their land but instead educate landowners who might want to conserve their land and help provide them with the info where to go and how to start the process.
- Conservation plan – best to conduct this after Labor Day; live presentation in the town hall; advertise beginning August in newsletter. GT to create a flyer and post in town newsletter. We agreed to have virtual access if possible as well as a live presentation. We agreed to not provide the plan in advance because it is so comprehensive and without the overview might be perceived as too much to digest. We will also have available some printed copies and if others are requested, we will take orders. We also agreed to have a very simple questionnaire at the end of the meeting to get additional feedback. RT is to review the summary and see if that accurately provides an overview of the artifact. RS provided feedback that the conservation plan is very detailed and lengthy. The presentation will consist of a 2–3-page presentation and a walkthrough of the contents of the plan to help folks become familiar with the plan. The plan is intended to be a resource reference where folks can go to find information and also to capture the near-term plan and long term actions/goals of the commission. It is also intended to provide continuity from one commission to another. Next year when we revisit our goals, we will define 5, 10, 15 years for the next commission. GT is going to provide a copy of the plan to a previously defined group of subject matter experts to get their opinion. LH reviewed the plan and was impressed with the content, topics covered, and effort associated with the work to create this plan.
- Volunteer Field Events – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail

- **Next Meeting** – 14 August at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Conservation Commission Members:

- Jennifer Bland (co-chair)
- Gregg Thibodeau (co-chair)
- Rynne Schoonover, (Select Board rep.)
- Mark Girard
- Scott Travers
- 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)