

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes May 11, 2022

Attendees:

Members Present: Gregg Thibodeau, Mark Girard, Kathi Brandt, Scott Travers, Jennifer Bland

Others Present: Janet Slocum, Terry Mattson, Steve, and Lori Murray.

Minutes of April 13, 2022 – Motion made (ST), 2nd (JB) and passed.

New Members

- Liz Cubberley accepted a position in Indiana after finishing her thesis in May. She offered to help support us remotely as a volunteer until some day when she hopes to return to New Hampshire and Acworth.
- Motion (GT) made to recommend JS as a member to the board. 2nd (ST) and passed. GT to take the recommendation to the 17 May board meeting.

Forestry, Town Forests & Other Conservation

- Appointment of a new forester – GT working with Charlette and board to create a job description by the end of May that includes pay model.
- Possible New Town Forest Parcels Map (Map 201, 107 and 108): Complete a survey in 2022, provide BoS with detailed assessments, resolve intrusions, properly mark boundaries, and create a 2023 warrant article for the designation of the 2 crescent lake properties into Town Forests.
 - ST received an estimate from Travis Royce/Chris Paton - \$7000-\$7500
 - GT received contact information for Dombrowski. E-mail sent requesting an estimate.
 - JB to contact D'ibernado surveyors for an estimate; GT to provide job description.

Finance-Budget

- **Available Funds**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund: \$3,904.86 (+\$0.04 interest only)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund: \$12,129.73 (+\$0.11 interest only)
 - GT to check with Charlotte to determine if there are any expected land use changes in 2022.

Complaints, Concerns & Other Actions

- Keyes Hollow Road Update– No change
 - GT north camera received; both cameras are stored in the town hall.
- Cold Pond Road – Sanville possible unapproved crossing/construction on Copeland Brook. Map 210, Lot 37/38. See DES letter to Sanville, dtd Feb 2, 2022. (See DES mail sent on 2 Feb); Complaint with possible crossings (Brenneman and Trybulski). – Motioned passed in April. JJ to follow-up with NH Fish & Game to ask them to confirm if there are any impacts to the stream. 5-10-22 Fish & Game explained that they will not investigate because DES is already investigating. Question was raised about what the appropriate process between DES and Fish & Game is.

Review Intents to Cut

- No issue with the 5 intents from Peter Rhoades, board approved on 5/2/22.
- No issue with the 1 intent from David Bascom, board approved 4/25/22.
- No issue with the 1 intent from Bascom, board approved 4/25/22.
- No issue with the 1 intent from Barbara Richards, board approved 4/25/22.

Town Owned Land Recommendations

- We have 8 parcels that have not been assessed. One (1) of the 8 has a “keep for conservation” from the 2019 assessment. Members will start reviewing the remaining 8 properties over the next couple of meetings.
 - GT to contact NH Division of Forest and Lands regarding map 250 lot 2 being added into Honey Brook State Park.
 - JB to assess map 230 lot 3 (Ball property) using our land assessment form.

- GT to update map 222 lot 21 (previous owner unknown) indicating that it is almost all water and could be a candidate to offer to abutters.
- GT to update map 210-20.1 (previous owner unknown) indicating that it should be offered to abutters.

Easement Monitoring

- All 2021 monitoring is complete. 2022 monitoring due 28 Nov 2022.

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. GT will take lead with some support from MG and JB, others TBD.
 - 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
 - Effects of Climate Change and What You Can Do - GT to take the lead on coordinating a speaker for Climate Change and date that this can be arranged in our town hall.
 - Acworth Natural Resources Inventory
 - iNaturalist rollout to the community. GT to take a lead on communicating iNaturalist use in town.
 - Wild Fowl Habitat Education Session - JB to follow-up with Fred to see if he would provide some lessons learned or best practices that we could share with the community.

Other business

- Question was raised if we should have additional cameras. Currently our 2 cameras are not being utilized. Request considered to use one of them on Dodge Hollow entrance. No decision. We will revisit the purchase of additional cameras after we determine to cost for the surveyor.
- Conservation Commission Bylaws & Commission Roles - GT asked the commission to review the first 5 pages of the by-laws and provide feedback at our next meeting.
- Reviewed the new Conservation Land Value Assessment form – no objections to the use of the form. JB will test it on one of the town owned properties.
- Index list of all natural resources - JS stated that the indexed list of our natural resources is pretty much complete. GT to review natural resources index.
- Standard Set of Maps - JS will begin working on the set of standard maps after her work on the inventory
- NH Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) Review – MG reviewed the artifact and it is a fairly exhaustive, excellent resource for conservation. Advised that we should refer to it whenever we have a question regarding conservation.
- Cold River Advisory (CRA) - GT to contact Beverly and obtain contacts for the Cold River.
 - 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.

Action Items

- GT to take the recommendation to the 17 May board meeting.
- GT working with Charlette and board to create a forester job description by the end of May.
- Members will reconsider purchase of additional cameras once we have actual costs for the survey work.
- GT to check with Charlotte to determine if there are any expected land use changes in 2022.
- TBD - Determine appropriate process when working with DES and/or F&G potential violation.
- GT to contact NH Division of Forest and Lands regarding map 250 lot 2 being added into Honey Brook State Park.
- JB to assess map 230 lot 3 (Ball property) using our land assessment form.
- GT will take lead for Keyes Hollow Nature Trail Cleanup with some support from MG and JB, others TBD.
- GT to take the lead on coordinating a speaker for Climate Change and date that this can be arranged in our town hall.
- GT to take a lead on communicating iNaturalist use in town.

- JB to follow-up with Fred to see if he would provide some lessons learned or best practices that we could share with the community.
- Commission members to review the first 5 pages of the by-laws and provide feedback at our next meeting.
- GT to review natural resources index.
- JS will begin working on the set of standard maps
- GT to contact Beverly and obtain contacts for the Cold River.

Non-Public Discussion

Next Meeting – 8 June 2022

Conservation Commission Members:

- Kathi Brandt, Board of Selectmen, kasbradt@msn.com, 835-2567
- Jennifer Bland, jlb1365@att.net 860-601-2223
- Gregg Thibodeau, Gregg@thibodeaufamily.com 860-338-3227
- Mark Girard, gothabitat@yahoo.com 603-851-2785
- Scott Travers, pamscottdave@gmail.com (603) 863-6636

Acworth Town Properties

Dated: 12-Apr-22

#	Name	Map/Lot	Road	Acreage	Assessment (as of Jan 2021)	2021 Recommendations	Notes	Type	Recommended Actions
14	Owner unknown	210-20.1	Near Cold Pond Road	2.1	\$ 3,200	Pending Review	Land-locked; No road access	Tax Deed	Assess
16	Owner unknown	222-21	Near Turkey Shoot Rd	4.4	\$ 3,600	Pending Review	Land-locked; No road access	Tax Deed	Assess
19	Ball	230-3	Five Points Trail	11.9	\$ 12,000	Pending Review	Five Points Trail; 1 lot east of five points	Tax Deed	Assess
21	Callum	234-18	Near Derry Hill Road	2.9	\$ 32,200	Pending Review	Land-locked; No road access	Tax Deed	Assess
22	Owner unknown	234-19	Derry Hill Road	20	\$ 45,900	Pending Review		Tax Deed	Assess
23	Roberts	236-10	River Road	7.4	\$ 42,000	Pending Review		Tax Deed	Assess
24	Prouty	250-2	Near 123A	25	\$ 6,900	Keep for conservation	Lempster border and State of NH Honey Brook State Park; Land locked; no road access	Tax Deed	Assess - possible designate as town forest
25	Stebbins Road	229-58	Stebbins Road	1.1	\$ 10,800	Pending Review		Gift or Purchase	Assess