



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Regular Meeting

6:00pm, Corner Meeting House Room, 1st Floor, Belmont Mill

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023 @ 6:00 pm**

## MINUTES

### Call to Order

D. Naiva called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Members Pauline Tessier, Jane Jordan, Richard Moreau, Deb Woodcock, Emilie DeFrancesco - Student Member.

Absent: Vice Chair Ed Stephenson, Georgina Lambert, Susan Irving, Jeffrey DeFrancesco, Emerson Decato - Student Member.

Staff: Roderick Cameron, Land Use Technician

### Mallards Landing Dredging Project Presentation:

D. Naiva asked the presenters to introduce themselves. Patrick Charest introduced himself as the Mallards Landing Association Chairman of the Dredging Committee. Gerald Fransen introduced himself as the Dredging Project Manager.

The two speakers briefly described the Scope of the Project to mechanically dredge 26,847-sq ft of lake bottom at the Mallards Landing waterfront on Lake Winnisquam and remove 1,500 cu yds of unclassified sediment to restore the lake bottom to a navigable condition.

The project will include removing the boat launch ramp, dredging the lake bottom to a depth of 4-ft and reinstalling the launch ramp at a 7% slope which will allow float launching and loading which is not possible under the current conditions.

The project will also include the stabilization of the southern stream bank at the mouth of Durgin Brook with large stone riprap.

The Mallards Landing beach area will be used for dredge spoils dewatering. The beach sand will be removed and stockpiled during dewatering activities and replaced when the dredging activities are completed. The dewatered dredge spoils will be disposed of behind Birch Hall on the Mallards Landing property.

- R. Cameron recommended that the Mallards Landing Project include a sedimentation control plan for the dredge spoils disposal area.
- D. Naiva asked if members of the Conservation Commission (ConCom) could visit the property to see the project area.
- G. Fransen said that he would be available to show the project area to members of the ConCom and he provided his contact information in order to make an appointment.

### Minutes:

D. Naiva asked if there were any changes to the November 1, 2023 meeting minutes. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

P. Tessier made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of November 1, 2023 as written. R. Moreau seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

D. Naiva asked if there were any changes to the November 19, 2023 Meeting minutes. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

D. Woodcock made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of November 19, 2023 as written. Tessier seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

### **NHACC Conference Highlights:**

- **BioBlitz**

P. Tessier attended the BioBlitz Session at the Conference. A BioBlitz is also known as a biological inventory or biological census. A BioBlitz is a communal citizen-science effort to record as many species within a designated location and time period as possible.

P. Tessier noted that a BioBlitz is a great way to engage the public to connect to their environment while generating useful data for science and conservation. Furthermore, she described a program that is available to assist in making an observation in the field.

- **Beavers In New Hampshire**

D. Naiva attended the panel discussion entitled “Living with Beavers”. She cited the Protection of Beavers legislation “Title XVIII - Fish and Game, Title 210 - Fur-Bearing Animals, Section 210:9” that prohibits people from destroying or disturbing beaver dams and lodges without first obtaining a special permit.

D. Naiva noted that a landowner or any town or municipal employee, may destroy beaver, remove beaver dams, or install beaver pipes on property under their control to protect property, public highways, or bridges from damage or submersion.

D. Naiva noted that when beavers hear running water, their instinct is to create a pond for their lodge by building a dam. Uncontrolled, the ponds may result in flooding. Pipe systems called “Beaver Deceivers” can be installed to mitigate the flooding potential. She stated that there is a “Beaver Deceiver” at the pond in the Town Forest.

D. Naiva stated that she heard that there might be a second system on private property in Belmont.

- **Trails for People and Wildlife**

D. Naiva briefly discussed the Conference Session entitled “Trails for People and Wildlife”. The session focused on a mapping tool developed by the NH Fish & Game Department that can be used to locate new trails in a way that minimizes impacts to wildlife and also minimizes the need for on-going maintenance.

D. Naiva noted that it can also be used to assess existing trails for potential impact on wildlife and to identify locations for on-the-ground best management practices that minimize trail maintenance.

**Natural Resources Inventory:**

D. Naive reported that the Conservation Commission has received a pdf of the Town of Belmont Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) from Elise Lawson, principal of Watershed to Wildlife, a natural resources consulting company who prepared the study in 2007.

R. Cameron noted that the NRI had been uploaded to the Town website by Karen Santoro, Town Planner.

D. Naiva stated that the NRI needed to be updated and the cost could be between \$15,000 to as much as \$75,000.

R. Cameron suggested that we check with Elise Lawson of Watershed to Wildlife to find out how much it would cost to update the original NRI and obtain estimates from other consultants to get a realistic idea of the cost.

D. Naiva said that the NRI should be included in the next Town Master Plan when the Master Plan is updated.

**Tioga Management Plan:**

P. Tessier briefly discussed the tree that needed to be cut down.

**Budget/Expenditures:**

• **2023 Budget Review**

After all recent expenditures the balance is approximately \$160. There is approximately \$750 for marking/blazing the Daniel Ladd Farm by Ron Klemarczyk. This money needs to be expended or encumbered by the end of the month (Ron would have to invoice the CC in December).

• **2024 Budget Update**

R. Cameron reported the following Planner Notes from Karen Santoro:

- On November 1<sup>st</sup> the Board of Selectmen approved the proposed Conservation Commission budget (3-2 vote). It originally was deadlock vote at October 23<sup>rd</sup> BOS budget meeting; the Invasive Species line item being the point of concern (it was increased from \$3000 to \$4000).
- On November 28th Karen Santoro presented the proposed 2024 Conservation Commission budget to the Budget Committee. The budget was accepted as presented by the Committee. (All in favor).
- The only question the budget committee members had was in regard to the new land acquisition on Mile Hill (they wanted to know where it was located).

• **2024 Conservation Commission Projects**

- D. Naive listed some of the projects that the Conservation Commission should tackle in 2024:
  - ◆ Town Forest Bridge Repair
  - ◆ Bean Dam Study
  - ◆ Tree removal from Mile Hill
  - ◆ Repair, replace and install new signage as necessary at the various conservation properties.

**Silver lake Association**

P. Tessier reported that there wasn't much going on.

**Student Members Questions/Activities**

Emilie DeFrancesco stated that there was nothing to report at this time.

**Community Outreach**

E. DeFrancesco noted that Jeffrey DeFrancesco was reviewing data about the effect of climate change on healthcare and community health in general.

D. Naiva mentioned that there might be an opportunity for a speaker presentation on Invasive Species.

**Other Business:**

• **Update on Wuelper Property (Route 140 - Depot Street)**

After the original Quit Claim deed was filed at the registry it was realized that there was a typographical error in the deed. A corrective deed was sent to Mr. Wuelper for signature and was received by the Town on Thursday, November 30th. It will be recorded at the Belknap County Registry of Deeds this week to finalize the transfer.

D. Naiva asked if there was any other new business. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

J. Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. D. Woodcock seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Roderick Cameron, Land Use Technician