

TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES

Town Office 2nd floor small meeting room, 6 Pinnacle Hill Road, NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256

September 4, 2024

1: CALL TO ORDER:

1) Mr. Pollock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

2) Regular Members: Mr. Bob Pollock, Mr. Maurice Schofield, Mr. Tim Young, Mr. Lewis Mundy Shaw

Alternate Members: Mrs. Ashley Bureau, Mr. Harold Lamos

Absent: Mrs. Debra Pendergast, Mr. Ted Capron (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Guests: Kelton Austin and Samantha Austin – Boy Scout Troop 50

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3) a) Mr. Pollock handed out a copy of an NHDES permit to remove approximately 6,230 sq ft of material from behind the Ayers Dam and asked the Commission to review. Mr. Pollock said the CC should respond to NHDES appropriately.

4. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF 8/7/2024

4) Minutes of 8/7/2024 were reviewed.

Mr. Schofield moved to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Young seconded. All were in favor of the motion to approve.

5. VOTE TO PAY FOR KELLEY DRAKE MOWING

5) Mr. Schofield reported on the mowing of the Kelley Drake property. Mr. Schofield explained to the CC that Mr. Dean Huckins wanted to do the annual mowing around the cellar hole, cemetery, and access to the lake and that he had advised Mr. Huckins to proceed after consulting with the Chair of the Commission. Last year, the CC approved \$200.00 to mow. At a prior meeting, the CC had discussed the need to cut the timber that was growing up in the cellar holes. This year, after the mowing was complete, Mr. Huckins had time to do this additional work. Mr. Schofield told him to go ahead and do the work. Mr. Huckins said that he would submit a bill for \$400.00 for all services.

Mr. Schofield moved to accept and pay the bill for \$400.00 to have this portion of the Kelley Drake property maintenance done. Mr. Young seconded. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Mr. Schofield said that we used to do the big fields every year. He is not sure why we went to every two years. Garret Gilpatric does that portion and would like to see it done every year because the conditions deteriorate too much over two years. Last year, Mr. Gilpatric mowed the field and punctured two tires from the stubs of brush that had grown from the past mowing two years ago. Mr. Pollock asked that the Commission vote to have the fields mowed every year.

Mr. Schofield moved that the mowing of the fields be done once a year. Mr. Lamos seconded the motion. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Lamos inquired about the possibility of haying the field. It would require keeping the fields mowed. Discussion to be revisited at another time.

Mr. Pollock asked that the Commission appropriate up to \$700 to pay for the mowing of the fields of the Kelley Drake Conservation area.

Mr. Schofield moved appropriate up to \$700 to pay for the mowing. Mr. Young seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

6. EASEMENT MONITORING

6.) Mr. Pollock said that Mr. Capron has completed easement monitoring for the Smoke Rise property and has submitted the review form.

7. BOY SCOUTS TRAIL MAINTENANCE

7. Mr. Pollock said that the town is looking for volunteers to maintain the fitness trail. Mrs. Samantha Austin was present along with Kelton Austin from Troop 50. She said that when scouts need conservation hours, they may want to do this. Mr. Pollock said that volunteer waivers will need to be signed. Kelton Austin said that the Newfound Cross-Country team uses the trails often and may want to maintain the trails as well.

8. SIGN FOR DOLLOFF BROOK PROPERTY

8) Discussion with Kelton Austin. He is an Eagle Scout candidate with Troop 50. He would like to construct a sign for the Dolloff Brook property as his Eagle Scout project. There was a discussion about the property and the type of sign that the CC was looking for. Mr. Austin was advised to bring a proposal to the CC for review and at that time, the Commission can comment, amend and make recommendations.

The Commission thanked the Austins for attending and they left the meeting.

9. BALD LEDGE EASEMENT UPDATE, IF ANY; DRAFT WARRANT

9.) The Commission reviewed a proposed warrant for the March Town meeting that read as follows:

“Shall the Town vote, Pursuant to RSA 80:80 (V), to retain the 134 acres +/- parcel of land indefinitely, until rescinded as Map R08 lot 001 on Mountain Vista Drive for public uses, and further to authorize the conveyance of a conservation easement to be held by Lakes Region Conservation Trust for this parcel of Town Owned Land?”

Mr. Lamos recommended that the following words be added: “There will be no additional cost to the town.”

Mr. Schofield made a motion that the warrant be sent to the Selectmen to be placed on the March town warrant. Mr. Young seconded. All voted in favor.

There was some further discussion about updating the Open Space Master Plan to add maps, wetlands, slopes and soils. Mrs. Bureau share some maps that she had printed. She will also send the digital versions to Mr. Young.

10. CHASE ROAD PROPERTY - RECOMMENDATION TO SELECTMEN

10.) No update

11. DIXON HILL PROPERTY – RECOMMENDATION TO SELECTMEN

11.) No update

12. STRAITS ROAD PROPERTY – PROPERTY LINE ISSUE

12.) No update

13. WINONA HEIGHTS ROAD; SELECTMEN REQUEST TO PAY BACK TAXES

13.) Mr. Pollock asked for a vote on whether the Commission wants to pay the full amount of the back taxes due on this property.

Mr. Schofield moved that the Conservation Commission pay the back taxes on the property in order to acquire it. Seconded by Mr. Young. Vote to approve was unanimous.

14. OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE – TIM YOUNG

14.) Mr. Young said he has made all of the updates that were discussed at the last meeting and will distribute to the commission. There was a discussion about adding maps to the Open Space plan update.

15. GRANTS AND CC FUNDING FOR 2023-2024 – DEBRA PENDERGAST UPDATE

15.) Mr. Pollock stated that Mrs. Pendergast has asked that she suspend her membership to the commission due to personal issues. He explained that he has the difficult decision to move an alternate to a permanent member of the Commission.

A. US FOREST GRANT AND LCHIP GRANT FOR ROBINSON FALLS PROPERTY

Mr. Pollock reminded that we will now need another alternate.

16. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED GROUND WATER ORDINANCE

16.) On hold at this time.

17. NEW MEMBERSHIP – ANY SUGGESTIONS

17.) It was noted that Mr. Barry Draper had been suggested previously.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

18) a) Mrs. Bureau inquired about the Ayers Dam correspondence and there was some further discussion.

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Mr. Lamos moved to have the Commission advise NHDES that they do not oppose the work to be done by Patriot Hydro (NHB 24-1799). Mr. Young seconded. All voted in favor.

b) Mr. Lamos advised the commission that someone was posting advertising signs on Conservation property on the Snake River. Mr. Pollock stated that if we knew who it is we can send a letter to them advising them that this is conservation property and posting of advertisements is in violation of the easement agreements of the ownership of the land.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Young made a motion to adjourn which Mr. Schofield seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING
SCHEDULED:**

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

*Respectfully submitted,
Tamara Van Lenten*