

TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES

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

August 7, 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

The chair asked Mrs. Bureau to vote for Mrs. Pendergast.

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

3) Mr. Pollock shared the Lakes Region Conservation Trust newsletter with the Committee.

**4. MINUTES – REVIEW OF
7/3/2024 MINUTES**

4) Minutes of 7/3/2024 were reviewed.

Mr. Young moved to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Mundy Shaw seconded. Vote to accept passed unanimously.

**5. VOLUNTEER TO
MAINTAIN NATURE-FITNESS
TRAIL (NOT A
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION PROJECT)**

5) No update

6. EASEMENT MONITORING

6.) Mr. Capron has completed easement monitoring for the Smoke Rise property. Mr. Mundy Shaw said that he has gone out to the Jenness Spring property and will get the completed form to Mr. Pollock. Mr. Schofield said he will do monitoring in the fall.

**7. BOY SCOUTS TRAIL
MAINTENANCE**

7. Mrs. Bureau said that she has asked members of both Bristol Troop 59 and Bridgewater Troop 50 if they would be interested in doing trail maintenance on the Fitness Trail and the Kelly Drake conservation area. Troop 59 is definitely interested but she does not know specific dates yet.

**8. SIGN FOR DOLLOFF
BROOK PROPERTY**

8) Mrs. Bureau also spoke to both Boy Scout Troops about the need for signs. There are several scouts that will be needing to start an Eagle project and may want to take this on. Mr. Lamos said that signs for the cemeteries had been made as an Eagle project.

Mr. Young will place the metal signs which Mr. Pollock had previously found. He asked to have the Chase Road placement locations noted on the map. Mr. Pollock said that if a scout makes a fancier sign at a later date, these could be replaced.

Mr. Schofield asked if scouts work on trail maintenance, could they be allowed to camp out on conservation property or to kayak out to the island? Mr. Pollock said that in the past scouts have been allowed to kayak to the island and sleep out there. They would have to let the CC know when and where they planned to camp. Mr. Pollock told Mrs. Bureau that it would be nice to have the boys come in and speak with the CC.

There was some discussion about Japanese knotweed and management of its spread and the consequences of cutting.

9. BALD LEDGE EASEMENT UPDATE, IF ANY

9.) Mr. Pollock has emailed LRCT for an update. They have not heard back from the attorney. Mr. Young asked if the Town's attorney is involved. Mr. Pollock said the Selectmen have notified her that the LRCT attorney will contact her. It was noted that if any amendment needs to be written for the Town Warrant, it needs to be done soon.

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.) Mr. Pollock explained that the surveyor's map and the assessor's map do not agree for parcel R06-003. Mr. Pollock said he believes only one landowner is contesting the survey. The survey done by Colin Brown was done using a transit and that previous surveys were done with compass. There was some additional discussion about the survey.

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

13.) No Update

14. OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE – TIM YOUNG

14.) Mr. Pollock distributed the Conservation quarterly financial report. He explained that the CC receives 50% of the Land Use Change Penalty Tax. This report doesn't reflect the 2023 Land Use Change Penalties which will be a large amount. Mr. Young asked when those funds would be reflected and Mr. Pollock indicated it would be towards the end of 2024.

The Town Administrator has asked Mr. Pollock about budget needs and there was additional discussion about how much had been budgeted in the past. Mr. Pollock said that Mr. Young has been working with Dave Jeffers at Lakes Region Planning Commission in regards to costs associated with the Open Space Master Plan. Mr. Young has not had a reply yet, but relayed that Mr. Jeffers had said it would be easier if he could get a copy of the assessor's database in spreadsheet form.

Mr. Young asked what distinguishes which expenses come out of which funds. Mr. Pollock explained that monies from the Conservation fund need to be directly tied to a property that we own. The amount that is budgeted

otherwise is used for items like stamps and paper. Mapping would come out of the Conservation Trust funds.

Mr. Young asked if CC members had a chance to look at the Open Space Master Plan draft update. Potential edits were discussed and it was suggested that the category for Active New Hampton Farms with Web Presence be removed and a Farm Easement category be added. Mr. Young reviewed several edits which Mr. Capron had suggested.

Mr. Lamos asked if the 'Current Use Land in New Hampton' pie chart breakdown is updated as land changes i.e. if forest regrows, etc. Mrs. Bureau said that a map has to be provided by the landowner.

Mr. Pollock reminded the CC that the Open Space Plan is going to be part of the Master Plan so it is important to be sure that the information in the Open Space Master Plan can be used for planning purposes. Mrs. Bureau asked what the process is for making changes to the Master Plan. Mr. Pollock said that is the responsibility of the Planning Board. A consultant has been hired to assist with updating the current Master Plan.

Mrs. Bureau asked what the process is to address planning and permitting cases which include some sort of environmental concern. Does anything in the Master Plan require consultation with the Conservation Commission? Mr. Pollock said he is trying to encourage this practice and has been advising the Planning Board to do so. He said that the Planning Board is regulatory and as such, should be referring items to the CC and other department heads as advisors to support their decisions.

Mr. Pollock reminded the CC to get any additional comments on the Open Space Master Plan to Mr. Young. He would like to see this completed by the end of the year so that it can be part of the Master Plan adoption.

**15. GRANTS AND CC
FUNDING FOR 2023-2024 –
DEBRA PENDERGAST
UPDATE
A. US FOREST GRANT AND
LCHIP GRANT FOR
ROBINSON FALLS PROPERTY**

15.) No update on the listed grants as Mrs. Pendergast is absent.

Mrs. Bureau shared information about other relative grants that have not yet passed the application deadline. They were the basic Conservation Moose Plate grant, the Land Conservation project specific, and a grant program which is Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat, Soil Conservation specific. The deadline for these is September 13, 2024.

Mr. Mundy Shaw is on PRLAC and noted that the Watershed Assistance and Water Quality Planning grant application deadlines have not passed. The pre-proposal is due by 9/13/2024. Mr. Young asked if we could apply for the grants with the hope that we would be able to get Robinson Falls or does some sort of agreement already have to be in place? Mr. Pollock thought we could get the necessary information about market value from the assessment or Zillow.

Mrs. Bureau said that another resource may be the NH Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund. This year's deadline has passed but may be appropriate for next year.

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**16. DISCUSSION ON
PROPOSED GROUND WATER
ORDINANCE**

16.) On hold at this time.

**17. OAK TREE FOR PAT
SCHLESINGER – TIM YOUNG**

17.) Mr. Young has planted the tree which he said is a beautiful white oak. Mr. Pollock did note that there is also supposed to be a plaque at the tree for Pat Schlessinger to acknowledge the many years she has put into the CC.

**18. NEW MEMBERSHIP -
SUGGESTIONS**

18) We have a full board right now. Any interest is welcome in the case that anyone leaves.

19. OTHER BUSINESS

19.) Mr. Lamos reminded that Old Home Day is this Saturday August 10th and members of the Belknap County Conservation Commission will have a display. Mr. Capron will be there as well on behalf of the CC.

ADJOURNMENT:

**Mr. Schofield made a motion to adjourn which Mr. Young seconded.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING
SCHEDULED:**

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

*Respectfully submitted,
Tamara Van Lenten*