

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
September 21, 2021  
Minutes

Present: Thomas Gilmore, Chair; Lyman Cousens; Norman LaPierre; Matthew Burdick; Henry Carrier; Jeff Abbe

Absent: Mark Kaplan

Staff Present: Rose Fife, Recording Secretary, Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director and Kearsten O'Brien, Planning and Community Development Assistant

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**Regular Business:**

- Open by Chair @ 7:00 pm
- Roll Call by Chair
- Accountant's Report – Town Forest account has \$46,340.93. The Conservation Capital Fund has \$286,135.04. Forest Fund has \$25,298.85. Town budget line item has \$2,130.00.
- Review Minutes of 08.17.21 – A motion to accept the Minutes was made by LaPierre, seconded by Cousens and passed by a unanimous vote.

**Old Business:**

- Discussion Items
- Rules of Procedure – Schedule Public hearing for September – Current By Laws have not been updated since 2016. Easler presented them with two copies. She explained the color coded mark ups within the documents. Additions/changes are made based on RSA 91-A-2 II. She'd like the commission to review the documents and give her their thoughts. Cousens asked why they didn't combine both documents. Easler explained. The second larger document is the one they should be looking at. She asked them to bring it back at the next meeting. Gilmore suggested they take the 2<sup>nd</sup> document home with them and at the next meeting they make that their by-laws.
  - Update per RSA 91-A: IV Commission Decisions – noted above.
  - Walker Pond Update – Easler reported the closing should be done next week - hopefully Tuesday afternoon. After the closing the document will go back to Upton & Hatfield, be recorded and then the money will transfer for payment.
  - Morrill Easement updated. Gilmore reported that it is progressing. The closing should be the middle to end of October. They will also have an informal closing out at the Morrill property.

Walker Pond report: They cannot close on the dam because part of the dam is in Webster. This creates a criteria of taking it to town meeting in March to get approval to close. The Select Board volunteered to do the maintenance. Cousens asked if they need to pay for the dam before they take title. Easler explained that they cannot buy the dam until they have permission from the town people to purchase the dam which is located in another town. Burdick asked if the purchase of this piece that is in another town rewrite the borders of the town. Easler was not sure.

Intent to Cuts: 160 N Main Street

DW Highway - Audley Pit approved by Planning Board in July.

O'Brien reported that Mark Simintaro reached out for trail head clean up volunteers. She would like a list of dates for trail head clean up as she needs to present them to Primex as is required. She also needs town employees for each clean up date as is required by Primex as well.

**New Business:**

- Betsey McNaughten, Land Agent for NH Fish & Game. When her agency reviews trails they look at the

intent to cuts. They are doing this to help plan for the wild life. One of the trails at Hirsh Marsh is cut off because of the timber cut. The cut has already happened. She passed around a map showing the trails that they have closed. Her request is that the map gets updated so it doesn't have that trail listed. There is a spur that goes back to Weir Road that she doesn't believe needs to be decommissioned. For wild life purposes, it made sense to close that trail. But the trail that will remain open is the one near the gate. It will be closed from there on. There are 2 signs out there. One is on the Weir Road that says Hirsh Marsh. She would like to ask to have that one be modified to correct the spelling. The second sign needs to come down. Her second question is about the snowmobile trail. That is a much better trail and she wondered why it isn't on their map. Gilmore reported that the snowmobile club would like to keep that trail and they do maintenance on that trail. Ms. McNaughten reported that there is a bridge there that she is not sure whether it belongs to the State or to the town. She'd like to have a relationship with the snowmobile club as they believe there is a snowmobile bridge on the Fish & Game property. Ms. McNaughten felt that Fish and Game needs to survey it. LaPierre added that when the snowmobile club put the trail in by the town forest, they did put a bridge by the brook. They thought they were on private land. Ms. McNaughten asked when they hold meetings for the snowmobile club. LaPierre answered the snowmobile club meets every first Tuesday of the month. Ms. McNaughten asked for a contact name. Gilmore reported that the snowmobile club meets from September to April. LaPierre suggested she contact Scott Shibles.

- Trails @ Hirsh Marsh – reported on above.
- Snowmobile Club – reported on above.
- Trails for People & Wildlife (sign @ Kiosk) – Abbe utilized this booklet and Ms. McNaughten will leave a copy for the commission. It is a great tool. It helps layout the trails and how it affects the wild life. She wanted to remind the commission of the impact on wild life that these trails have. Abbe reported how they tried to minimize the imprint on the wild life when they created trails.

Easler asked if they should put up a sign saying that the trail is closed. Ms. McNaughten said no. A lot of people will get the information from the maps and that is why she is asking the town to remove the trail from their map.

Abbe reported on the Town Forest. September 11, 2021 was a trail work day. There were 12 participants. They have come up with a list of people interested in keeping up with the trails. Aurel was there and he was interested in doing trail maintenance. Aurel will let everyone know when the next work day would be. They did get raking and clipping done on the trails. They still need a map on the kiosk and some trail names. It is important to have trail names vs. a numbering system. Easler asked how many more trail names they need. Abbe answered at least 4 or 5 names. She suggested they ask the Select Board for suggestions. O'Brien suggested a list be put out on their Facebook page for voting.

There are two guests in the audience that have interest in helping; Aurel Mihai and Nate Preisendofer. Nate Preisendofer lives in town. He has a background in trail development and maintenance. He's been active in trail maintenance and creation since he was a teenager. He'd be interested in helping with getting volunteers, design, construction etc. He suggested trail names like influential people in town that might have worked with the commission.

Aurel Mihai has lived in town for a few years. He has no formal knowledge in trail creation or maintenance, but he likes to frequent the trails and he would like to help.

Abbe thanked them both for their participation. He also thanked Burdick and Cousens as well for their help.

Abbe would like to contact John Fife for mowing in the homestead area. Rose Fife reported that John would be out at the homestead to mow in about 3 weeks.

O'Brien asked if she should let Mr. Simintaro know when they would be out there cleaning up with high school kids volunteering. They need to plan the dates and times as they need to have a staff member out there. Abbe said it will take coordination. O'Brien volunteered to head that up for him.

More discussion regarding decommissioning trails and whether or not they need to brush in and naturalize the trails.

**Non Public:**

None.

**Next Meeting:**

October 19, 2021

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm was made by LaPierre, seconded by Abbe and passed by a unanimous vote.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rose Fife, Recording Secretary*