

Enfield Conservation Commission MINUTES (Draft)
Thursday, August 3rd, 2017
Enfield DPW, 74 Lockehaven Rd, 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Gary Gaudette, Shirley Green, Alan Strickland (chairman), Jerold Theis

Excused/Absent: Jay Welenc, Sue Hagerman

Others Present: Annabelle Bamforth (minutes)

Administrative: Alan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Discussion, Old & New Business:

Alan made a motion, and Jerold seconded, to accept the minutes from the July 6th meeting. The minutes were accepted and approved unanimously with the exception of Gary, who abstained from voting.

Old Home Days Hike: Alan said he was pleased with the high turnout for the Commission's hike and the large number of people attending Old Home Days overall.

Fish & Game Treatment of Invasive Plants: Alan brought up the recent meeting with NH Fish & Game at Shaker Museum regarding the department's planned 4-year project to address plant issues in the vicinity by utilizing ash to promote grass growth and using chemical spray to eliminate invasive plants. This chemical is similar to Roundup.

Jerold said he had reviewed the chemical's toxicology report, which points to considerable levels of toxicity, particularly in the surfactant present in the chemical. He said that the Commission should state these concerns on record.

Jerold offered to send a letter to Fish & Game requesting more comprehensive information about the protection of wildlife in treating the plants, particularly regarding wildlife population data before treatment and after treatment so that the Commission can better understand the true benefits and risks of using this treatment. The Fish & Game plan shows the area of treatment, but Jerold said he would like to see information regarding how much acreage percentage-wise is infested with invasive plants to determine how significantly these plants are actually constricting wildlife.

Shirley said it was reasonable for the Commission to request more data, including data pre- and post-treatment. Shirley went on to share with the commission her concerns about chemical use, particularly near water. Shirley said that any time chemicals are used, she finds it important to be assured of its safety by independent sources, not just the entities performing the treatment.

She recalled that there may be a NH EPA member on the board of the lakes association and that she would reach out to this individual. Shirley also asked if Fish & Game had mentioned surveying following treatment.

DPW and Boys Camp Road: Alan discussed communications that have been occurring with the DPW as the department completes projects. Following installation of the Boys Camp Road bridge, the town placed sediment pools at each end. Alan noted that the DPW has been making strides in retaining awareness of the environment while working on projects. Shirley said there should be more catch basins for the sediments.

Alan discussed plans to make a recommendation to the board of selectmen to have the town preserve ownership of a landlocked lot on Oak Hill Road. He said he hoped to present at the August 7th meeting or perhaps a following meeting. Jerold estimated the property tax revenue may amount to about \$100 or a little more per year. Jerold said that this land sees a large amount of wildlife activity and expressed concern of what may happen if it were sold. There appears to be an interested potential buyer, but Alan said if anything the town may put it up for a bid.

Loon Preservation Committee: Alan shared the Loon Preservation Committee's recent email about the upcoming end of the season, and also spoke about a call he received regarding a request from the Committee to band loons to help track movement and activity. Alan said he asked the Committee to come in the fall and make a presentation to the commission and revisit the idea of banding in the spring.

Jerold said he had been asked if fishing was permitted at Harris Brook. Alan said that it was his understanding that this is correct. Jerold said it might be a good idea to place a small "fishing permitted" sign for the sake of clarity.

Alan talked with Melissa Hutson about the display at the library. The display is being enjoyed by the library's visitors.

Alan suggested adding new photos to the commission's gallery on the town website. Members said there were a number of sources for finding photos.

Alan said he talked with Kimberly Quirk of EVA about the island behind the library and the possibility of working jointly in the future. Shirley said that may be something good to consider especially after the building of the new library. Alan asked if any members would be interested in walking around that property with Kimberly. Alan said he hoped to keep the area as natural as possible. Shirley and Jerold said that they would like to join in a review of the property.

Jerold asked about the status of Moose Mountain trail access. Alan said nothing new has developed.

Jerold motioned, and Shirley seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.