

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
September 7th, 2017 7:00 PM
Enfield Public Works Facility, 74 Lockehaven Rd.**

Members Present: Alan Strickland (Chair), Sue Hagerman, Shirley Green, Jerold Theis, Jay Welenc

Excused/Absent: Gary Gaudette

Alan called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Administrative

Sue moved to accept the minutes of the August 3 meeting, Alan seconded.

Jerold presented changes listed on a printed copy of the draft minutes, including clarifying that Gary had abstained from voting due to absence, as well as clarification of the toxicology report, reference of DPW's protection of the local environment, and location of the landlocked property off of Oak Hill Rd.

The minutes were approved with the changes, with the exception of Jay and Sue who abstained from voting because they were not present at the August 3 meeting.

Discussion, Old and New Business

Members of the committee discussed the Board of Selectmen's August 9 meeting during which the Commission requested that the Board retain a landlocked property (Map 13, Lot 49) located near Oak Hill Road. The Board voted in favor of retaining the property.

Library Island

Alan discussed visiting the "Library Island" with Scott Osgood. He said that hopes that he will have information to present for the Commission's October meeting. The two discussed preliminary work and applying for grants to create a pathway for increased accessibility to the island. Alan said the island is about 5 acres and would make for a nice park.

Sue asked if there were potential obstructions. Alan said Scott would want to make the bridge handicapped accessible, which would likely be expensive. There would be private funding sought, such as grants, to pay for any such bridge.

Alan said he believes the town owns the lot, but this has not been verified.

Harris Brook

Alan said he recently drove by the area and saw parking lot was full; there was a large family gathering that had picked this spot to assemble, which he said was nice to see.

Mascoma Boat Launch

Alan said he was alerted by an individual about an invasive species that has been sighted at the boat launch. Shirley questioned if the plant was invasive, or if it appears to be natural. Alan said he researched this plant and read that it is an invasive species and has also read about ways to remove it. He noted that this plant appears on roadways frequently. Alan said he advised the individual to contact DES for further advice.

Shaker Mountain Invasive Species Treatment

Jerold shared a letter that he drafted to New Hampshire Fish & Game about the treatment underway at Shaker Mountain. This letter is in draft form. The committee reviewed the letter. There are 4 or 5 chemicals being used, one manufactured by Bayer. Jay asked about the level of invasiveness of the plants being treated. Alan said that while the treatments have already begun, the commission should offer suggestions to New Hampshire Fish & Game to prove sensitivity of wildlife, which was their original stated intent for treating the area. The Commission will need to sign off on this letter.

Sue moved to send Jerold's drafted letter, and Jay seconded. The motion was unanimously approved to send this letter with minor modifications to New Hampshire Fish & Game.

Shirley said she'd liked to have seen more data about the chemicals that are being used.

Alan said he has a meeting with New Hampshire Fish & Game next week and can issue the letter then.

The Commission moved on to discuss its agreement with the state regarding trails on Shaker Mountain. Alan explained there was a contracted agreement that gave the Commission permission to maintain the trails for the public to use. One of the bridges on the trail will need replacement in the next year or so. This agreement is up for renewal.

Sue asked if the town attorney has weighed in on possible liability issues of this contract. Alan said he could run it by the town manager. Sue wondered if the Commission has the authority to enter in such agreements. Shirley agreed that the Commission should be sure that it's legal. Alan said he would ask the town for advisement. Jerold said there should be some sort of formal recognition of the agreement.

Logging on Evenchance Road

The Commission discussed the planned building of 18 houses on Evenchance Road; this project has been in the works for some time, but it was noted there is a new developer working on the project. The town has approved this plan twice. The owners of those homes will have access to the lake.

Jay told the Commission that logging has led to a lot of open dirt in the development area, which could cause trouble in the event of heavy rain. Jay added that he's close to the development and is concerned about runoff and erosion.

Alan said that he would need to look at the area before contacting authorities.

Sue pointed out that Jay as a private citizen could contact the Director of Forest and Lands, as an abutter. Alan said it may be difficult to get Forest and Lands to come down.

Jay said he wanted to look more thoroughly for himself and Alan expressed interest in joining in a review of the land. Retention pools are supposed to be part of the development plan.

Jay said he will have Alan join him in reviewing the area with Alan and contact DES if they see causes for concern.

Shirley noted that when the Commission receives alerts, the group should follow up accordingly.

Jerold shared the new "fishing allowed" sign to be placed at the Harris Brook area. The Board of Selectmen had approved the signage, so he had one made up.

The Commission discussed lead sinkers; although they have been outlawed, it may be a good idea to put up another sign warning against using them for the sake of the loons in the area. Shirley said that loon numbers are down on Squam Lake due to a pollutant, but lead sinkers were also attributed to the numbers going down. Shirley could not recall the specific pollutant.

Adjournment

Jerold moved to adjourn the meeting, and Jay seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.