

Enfield Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2019

Members Present: Shirley Green, Alan Strickland, Dolores Struckhoff, Terry Terry, Jerold Theis, and Jay Welenc

Excused: Sue Hagerman

Meeting started at 7:03 pm

Approval of Minutes

- A. Tabled until the next meeting.
- B. Future Minute procedure
 - a. Alice sends to Alisa, Alan and Dolores
 - b. Dolores to review, edit if necessary, and indicate to Alisa that they are OK to post.
 - c. Dolores to distribute draft minutes to the Commission for review prior to the next meeting.

Business

Gary Gaudette

Alan received a letter inviting members of the Commission to a celebration of Gary's life/open house gathering on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at Gary's home at 13 Evenchance Road, Enfield. Gary's house is the first house on the left. Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to do so.

NH Association of Conservation Commission Dues: Decision on paying dues.

There was a continuation of the discussion from the March Meeting. Jerold spoke with Barbara Richter of the NHACC and she sent handbooks to be distributed to the Commission. Chapter 5 of the handbook provides a skeleton for developing an inventory of natural resources in Enfield. The handbook also contains examples of what other Conservation Commissions have done. Our Commission has already done some of this work including pieces suitable for recreation and so forth. Chapter 5 will help us with the next Steps.

Jerold also talked to Barbara about getting members from the Northern region of the state onto the NHACC. In his discussion with her, he asked about using Skype to reduce travel. He hasn't heard back from her yet. Jerold further suggested our members read Chapter 5 and contact Alan to let him know what we want to do regarding joining.

Dolores asked Jerold if he recommended joining. Jerold stated that it is a rich resource, many regulations are applicable to the lands in Enfield, and it provides a roadmap to the roles and responsibilities of Conservation Commissions in general. It is also a great

resource to be connected to other Conservation Commissions and Barbara is very knowledgeable. Jerold further recommended we have members attend Enfield's Planning Board of Adjustment and Zoning Board of Adjustment. Jerold felt that the Planning Board would be better, but that the Town's new Strategic Governance Plan may generate more revenue in construction and housing. He felt regulations for conservation do not guarantee conservancy. Eastman and Montcalm Golf Course were both built on conservation land.

Jerold further felt that we need to concentrate on owners of the land to convince them to conserve their land and that is the beginning of the charter of the group. Jerold explained the classifications of land that Enfield has, and they are everything that the Conservation Commission is overseeing; water, runoff, scenarios where buildings could be too close to streams, minding for insufficient setbacks, but the Commissions charter does not mention wildlife and forestry. Something he suggests we look into.

Dolores asked if we have a Mission Statement and Critical Success Factors to measure our success by.

Alan stated that this could be found in the Town Handbook.

Dolores further asked if we have a plan for the year of things we are going to do, a vital few goals, etc.

Alan stated that he has something in his head but he will put it to paper.

Unfortunately, the Conservation Commission was not involved in the Strategic Planning process recently finished for the town.

During the next meeting Alan suggested we flush out the list on the last page of the NH Municipal Conservation Handbook. Duties for the Commission are listed on the last page. It was suggested that we flush out what the Commission is going to do to support each one of those.

Dues to join the State Conservation Commission are \$325 per year.

Dolores made a motion to pay dues on the State Conservation Commission. Shirley Green seconded. The vote was all in favor 6-0.

Town Wildflower Update

Dolores announced we now have a Town Wildflower, The Common Milkweed. Final voting was at Town Meeting in March. Approximately 118 town's people voted. Some people provided contact information, so Dolores said she would put together a spreadsheet for future use.

Dolores also said that she had contacted the library and they agreed to let us put a display there. Others on the Commission suggested we put one in the Town Office and at the Department of Public Works too. Dolores suggested a photo and some of the detail provided during the contest. Alan suggested a drawing and he has an artist contact he will follow up with. Alan also suggested maybe we do a t-shirt, hats, etc. Dolores suggested we try to have the drawing done to use in the promotional items to have available by Old Home Day.

**Kurt Gotthardt's Bicknell Brook Private Snowmobile Trail Discussion Revisited
(Refer to Kurt's letter in previous minutes).**

Alan provided a little history for us:

March 1, 2010 – Board of Selectman minutes: This was the first recording of this issue. It was determined that the person using the trail could not use it anymore.

April, 2010 – Enfield Conservation Commission minutes. Stated it was an illegal trail on town property through Bicknell property.

July, 2010 – Enfield Conservation Commission minutes. Still may be an issue. Same owner the entire way through.

March, 2011 – Enfield Conservation minutes. Kurt Gotthardt raised this ongoing issue again.

At that time, Alan had a conversation with Paul Currier, a representative of one of the local snowmobile clubs. Paul stated they go to great lengths to maintain good relationships with local communities. The person in question had never contacted anyone for any kind of permission or discussion on establishing the trail.

On April 3, 2019, Alan walked the entire trail to the Boys' Camp Road. He believes a snowmobiler is going all the way to Crystal Lake on the trail in question. He believes it is an out-of-state property owner who comes up a couple of times a winter. Although infrequent use, it does pass through five to ten private property parcels. On his walk, he saw fresh cutting on private properties, pallets across a stream, and trails pretty close to houses. Although he isn't sure the people in these houses realize it.

Alan further mentioned that in his conversation with Paul Currier, Paul remembered in the history when the gentleman was confronted, he hired a lawyer and got somewhat aggressive.

Basically, Alan felt, the Selectman are the decision makers on this. We can make a recommendation but at the end of the day, it's their decision.

Shirley stated she thought it was surprising that the town backed down.

Dolores asked if it is an issue for us, if the town and the private landowners have no problem with it.

Terry stated that it is important how it is handled as it could set a precedent.

Shirley wondered where the trail came out. She lives on Crystal Lake and has seen snowmobilers coming out on the other side of the lake.

Alan stated that it hooks into the Rail Trail through Mud Pond Road.

Further discussion of the paths was had.

Jay stated that if we were going to make a recommendation, we need to understand where exactly the trail is.

Terry stated that if it is on private property it is not our call. What is the town's policy on snowmobiles on town land? Is there one?

Alan indicated that the land in question belongs to the Upper Valley Land Trust and they do allow snowmobilers on their land.

Terry asked do we have a leg to stand on here. If the trust allows snowmobilers on their land, then we have to look into that.

The next step is for the Commission (or some members) to take a walk along the trail.

After a lengthy discussion, Alan said we don't have to make a decision tonight, but we need to make a decision before next winter.

Items Dolores Struckhoff asked to include in the agenda.

Dolores shared that the Enfield Village Association is sponsoring an EVA Town Clean Up on May 18, from 9:00 am to noon. She encouraged the Commission to participate and recommended they help with cleaning up the Lakeside Park, the parking area at the Beach and Boat Launch, and an area near the mouth of the river, that is owned by the Northern Rail Trail (she recently confirmed this with the Town Manager). Anyone interested should meet her at the Lakeside Park at 9:00 am and she will make assignments. She is manning this area for EVA.

In relation to the area near the mouth of the river, Dolores suggested we clean it up and then contact the rail folks to see if they would allow a sign asking users to abide by a "trash in, trash out" policy.

Dolores also mentioned getting involved in the lake clean ups. She believes the Lake Associations for both Crystal and Mascoma hold special days of clean up. She will look into this.

Her final item was to “Reduce plastic bag and other plastic usage around town.” This was tabled for our next meeting.

Natural Resource Inventory

Additions to the list that was established in 2005. This report should be placed on our Conservation Commission website.

Alan stated that back in 2005, the inventory was done; the report is simple but a baseline. Alan further would like the Commission to discuss the 5 areas in town and add 6, 7, 8 and 9 as follows:

6. Harris Brook

7 Any lands contiguous to the 5,000 acres Fish and Gam has designated to the Upper Valley Land Trust

8. Land surrounding George Pond

9. Land adjacent to Bicknell Brook area, contiguous to town owned property

Once this is updated, it provides a rationale to open discussion-surrounding conservation with the landowners.

Dolores stated that she is sure there is documentation that has to be added to get updated officially. The Commission can review first and discuss recommendations at next meeting. Someone needs to come up with a little report on each area to be added. If we want to get it redone professionally, the professionals can add the blurbs.

Dolores offered to get an original copy from the Watershed to Wildlife, Inc. contact John C. Severance or Alise J. Johnson. She also will contact Jim Taylor to see if he has a copy.

Jerold offered to look over the Natural Resource Inventory and see how it aligns with the handbook for the NH Municipal Conservation Commission through a fact-finding mission.

Harris Brook Update (not on agenda)

Alan reported that he had walked the trail and it was heavily covered with limbs and branches. He cleared much of the debris, but some chain saw work needs to be done. One can drive through and into Harris Brook now. Mother nature definitely pruned this year!

Park Bench Update

This park bench is a memorial to Gary Gaudette who was on our Commission and passed away recently. Dolores was unsuccessful in identifying the supplier of the bench across from the Mascoma Bank but is still researching on her own and will bring what she finds to our next meeting if she is successful. She also recommends that once we have the

bench we schedule a short ceremony. She also mentioned a sturdy plaque be included with Gary's name and a line or two about his service to the town.

Correspondence to Address

DES to BMB Real Estate, Bruce Bergeron, Map#33, Lot#32 & 34, (Jake's): Alan stated that the DES wants to know a lot more about the area, dredging impact of A2, they consider dredging more impactful than to leave as is. They looked at the vernal pool to see if there is evidence of frogs and egg masses. Alan was impressed. Jake's may not be able to remove that pool. Alan read the letter out loud and he stated DES is all over this. Our letter made a big impact. Jake's got a copy as well.

The Upper Valley Land Trust update information regarding Smith Pond Forest was not discussed.

Mount Calm Golf Course Storage Shed

Celie Aufiero would like the Commission to comment on this. Email to be attached to minutes.

Jerold stated that it was needed to get details about height and location by April 3 for 21-day comment period. This does not seem to have been met. Earliest for consideration now unsure. It's on the golf course. The issue is location, height, and use on conservation land. The course is on conservation land.

Jerold stated that he was surprised they didn't have that info. He also stated that the whole thing is still in need of consideration, and will follow up. He stated he would need a letter approving his authority to speak on behalf of the Commission at Planning Board Meetings going forward.

Terry made a motion to approve Jerold to represent the Conservation Commission for the sole purpose of gathering information for the Conservation Commission. Dolores seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor 6-0.

Old Home Day Hike (not on agenda)

Shirley requested a blurb for our hike to be included in the program for Old Home Day. Alan agreed to provide draft.

Intent to Cut

Lloyd Hackeman, Map#9, Lot#74-4 & 74-5, Route 4A – informational only.

Items Jerold Theis asked to include in the agenda.

Concerns for the Commission for the May Meeting. Addressed above.

Alan moved to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Alice Kennedy/Dolores Struckhoff