

**Enfield Conservation Commission**  
**April 1, 2021 Minutes**

**7:05 pm:** Meeting was called to order via Zoom.

**Attendance:**

Shirley Green (SG), Sue Hagerman (SH), Alan Strickland (AS), Dolores Struckhoff (DS), and Jerold Theis (JT), AMK to alphabetize

Excused: Terry Terry (TT), Jay Welenc (JW)

Guests: Celie Aufiero (CA), Glyn Green (GG)

**Minutes:** Approval of January, February, and March minutes.

January Minutes: SH moved to accept, DS seconded, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion 5-0.

February Minutes: SG moved to accept, DS seconded, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion 4-0, TT abstained

March Minutes: SG moved to approve as corrected, DS seconded, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion 4-0, SH abstained.

**Colette / Bicknell Brook Trail:**

Strickland noticed that Robert Cone, Map#9, Lot#47-1, 93 Grafton Pond Road, an abutter to the Town of Enfield property on which is located the Colette and Bicknell Brook Trails, is again in violation of respecting Town property. He recut his old snowmobile trail on Town property, including young live saplings. Strickland noticed fresh sawdust from chainsaw cutting on the snow. Several downed trees had been cut. Strickland called Alisa, the Assistant Town Manager, who directed him to call the police. Strickland called the Office of the Police reporting the incident. This has been an ongoing issue with Mr. Cone since 2010. Most recently, on April 15, 2019, the BOS voted for the Town to post a "NO SNOWMOBILE USE" to the entrance of the snowmobile trail that originates from the Cone property. Strickland then posted the Town property.

Strickland would like to write a letter to the BOS to further document this most recent abuse so that it can be a part of a public record to show a continued pattern of disregard to the Town's directives.

**Discussion:** Incident was reported to police by AS, no follow up yet. DS and SH happy to wordsmith a draft letter from AS to the BOS to add to record of this. AS to send to Alisa, DS to remind John that the letter is coming to the BOS.

**Intent to cut:** None

**Correspondence:**

Department of Fish & Game: Strickland received a phone call from Jim Oehler to see if he could use some indoor facility to conduct a chainsaw class in June for about 10-20 participants.

Strickland contacted Jim Taylor, DPW, who said DPW could host the event during the weekday. The event will be a 2-day affair with the second day in the field at the F & G Property on Shaker Mountain, where the group will fall trees to block access to unauthorized trails.

**Discussion:** F&G has been concerned about trails on Shaker Mountain that are being used that should not be used. They are taking a more active role in management to keep people on designated trails. Social distancing will be observed.

**Brief discussion of Pitola property:** no new updates, this is beyond the scope of this committee.

**Natural Resource Inventory:** Update from subcommittee.

**Discussion:** JT has written intro materials and methods and results and now in discussion of Natural Resources Inventory. Anticipate being done by this month and will send to committee members for additions and corrections, and vote on it during May meeting. Maps are digitized, JT put in application to Eastman Charitable Foundation for funding to support printing of maps in color. Discussion of prime wetlands included on map and contributions by CA.

#### **Game Cameras:**

Report from Theis on status and findings.

**Discussion:** JT has put game cameras up on perimeter of Society for Protection of NH forests, on JT property, on CA property, and on deer carcass to see what/who comes to eat it. Pictures were obtained from Mirski property, foxes and deer came, probably from trail that comes down from Shaker Hill. Unsure how many are crossing from bridge onto 4A. Cameras have since been moved. Cameras will be up seasonally. All appropriate permissions for placing cameras have been obtained. A deer was hit on Kluge Road. JT to approach Jim Taylor about posting signs for deer crossing in appropriate areas. JT noted garbage at exit 17, others concur. Cans, etc. have been blowing out of the Casella trucks. On 4A just past the dam, there are small black trashbags on the right side of the road, may contain human feces. JT to take pictures of this as well.

**Vernal Pools:** GPS coordinates need to be added to Conservation's list of vernal pools, + or – 60. Each spring a sampling of existing vernal pools data should take place, recording number of egg masses, Wood Frog or salamanders, date of sample, chorusing or not, and % of ice covering. Wood Frog egg masses can be seen at the Enfield Post Office's vernal pool, which should appear any day now.

**Discussion:** Need a permanent record of these. JT would like to include GPS of vernal pools in natural resources inventory. AS to reach out to UV Trails or Land Trust for GPS loaner to complete this inventory. DS to assist in creation of spreadsheet. AS found fresh woodfrog eggs in a vernal pool. There will be woodfrog egg masses by the post office any day now.

#### **Deer Necropsy:**

Strickland found a deer, a young buck, which very recently died on the Town's Suki Marsh property. The body was still well preserved. The death seemed to be void of injury and trauma. Strickland notified Dr. Theis who wanted to conduct an autopsy and send samples to the lab. Cutting into the lung cavity showed no sign of internal bleeding. Probable cause of death is starvation, which could indicate loss of habitat and food sources, over population, or other factors caused by weakened health. Research on the internet also indicated that an injection of corn, fruit or other unusual foods into a late winter diet can be very harmful to a deer. A deer's metabolism adjusts to lack of food, and a sudden injection of "donated food" can be very

harmful, even death resulting. The above deer had signs of diarrhea, which can indicate a sudden change of diet, or well-meaning people feeding deer.

The Suki Marsh property is a major deer habitat which contains a deer yard. Deer droppings cover almost the entire property.

**Discussion:** There are learnings to be harvested from this deer. Could publicize the harmful effects of feeding deer in late winter. JT explained effects of inappropriate food in late winter. Could put it in Town Newsletter, a 'Conservation Update'.

**Other agenda items:** Members can express other issues not listed above.

#### **Other Item 1**

SG: Glyn Green approached for project Loon Preservation Committee considering putting a nesting raft on Crystal Lake and in conjunction put on Loon Program for Enfield community. Would like to partner with this Commission before first week in May. Loons are a protected species in NH, we put out signs, rope off nesting areas, and education is important to let community know how to act around Loons. The goal is to educate as a form of prevention.

DS: Could this program be spread through the school?

GG: Zoom license goes up to 100 invitees. Could record.

There is no cost to this sponsorship, just invest in promoting the event and respect of Loons.

[www.Loon.org](http://www.Loon.org)

A major threat to the loons is changing water levels. Crystal Lake Improvement Association would be primarily responsible for work involved, and this Commission would be asked to promote the event and awareness.

GG to follow up with this group as to what next steps are to support this effort.

DS made a motion for the Conservation Commission to sponsor this program, SH seconded, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (5-0).

#### **Other Item 2**

DS: Talked to Alisa about CC having FB page, town prefer not. DS suggest to use town FB page for announcements as well as Listserve. If anyone would like to post anything to FB, send to DS.

#### **Other Item 3**

DS: Recently hiking at Harris Brook Trail, is it possible to donate a picnic table similar to the one at Lakeside Park. DS willing to donate, would like to donate in memory of her father. Does this group find it appropriate? This discussion will be ongoing, after the litter signs are posted by JT. SH also noted a study that areas for family gatherings encourage diversity in use of natural resources. The committee will discuss and revisit, including placement of signs in relation to the proposed picnic tables. AS to set up meeting with Jim Taylor, JT, AS, DS, to discuss placement of table.

#### **Other Item 4**

JT noted that this group is missing the opportunity to advise against dredging by only meeting monthly. JT propose to meet twice per month. This discussion is ongoing.

#### **Other Item 5**

CA ask if this group comes to discuss matters and advise with ZBA. Clerk should be giving CC all wetland applications. SG indicated that in the past this has not happening. Discussion: State depends on Conservation Commission to keep track of these. Need to be sure that this group gets the information from these boards; could it be through the minutes?

**Other Item 6**

CA asked about Bicknell Brook area forest management, AS assured her everything was done by professional forester and by the book. AS also informed the group that he was the agent for hat operation. Discussion of cutting on Bicknell Brook. AS reassured that this was done by the book. CA stated that the deforesting was more than was expected. The only time the CC may have had input was if it was for subdivision of land.

DS made a motion to adjourn, JT seconded, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion (5-0).

**Adjourn 8:40 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice Kennedy