

Enfield Conservation Commission – Meeting Minutes
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/ZOOM
PLATFORM
February 10, 2022

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Leigh Davis, Shirley Green, Sue Hagerman (via Zoom platform), Dolores Struckhoff, Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Whitney Banker-Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Kate Plumley Stewart (Board of Selectmen)

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chair Theis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and took a “roll call” of members present.

II. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES: January 25, 2022

Chair Theis MOVED to approve the January 25, 2022, Minutes presented in the February 10, 2022, agenda packet as presented and amended.

Seconded by Ms. Green

Amendments: N/A

Roll Call Vote:

Jerold Theis (Chair), Leigh Davis, Shirley Green, Sue Hagerman, John Welenc all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

Dolores Struckhoff Abstained.

** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0-1).*

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Conservation Commission Report for 2021 Town Annual Report

Chair Theis said that he had written the Conservation Commission report to be included with the annual town report. He had sent this to the commission members, it was a document with a loon photograph included, and he sent it forward to Ms. Bonnette to be included.

Ms. Struckhoff asked if the commission had permission to use the photograph? Chair Theis said that it was one Ms. Bonnette had put on the document. Ms. Green said she will check with Ms. Bonnette as it had not gone to print yet.

B. DES final report on violation of RSA 483-B at 19 Bridge Street, Tax Map #32, Lot #6:
Review found no conclusive evidence of a violation of RSA 483-B, Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act.

Chair Theis read the conclusion of the report by NH DES. No further action is required at this time. Chair Theis said that the complaint that was filed does not have sufficient evidence to warrant any activity.

C. DES Response to a complaint received July 16, 2020, regarding violation of RSA 483- B alleging vegetation removal beyond the permissible limits within the protected shoreland, either the 50-foot Waterfront Buffer and/or the Natural Woodland Buffer of French Pond, Tax Map # 17 Lot # 24.

Chair Theis explained the complaint: inspection by DES on Sept. 9, 2020, resulted in a request for an Existing Conditions plan. DES received this on Feb. 10, 2021. Review of the ECP resulted in DES requesting, that a Shoreland Restoration plan be submitted by March 7, 2022.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Intent to Cut permits: Chair Theis said that most of these are things the commission has dealt with in the past.

1. Map 2 Lot 55, 70 acres on a 144-acre parcel to be harvested

Chair Theis said the property is on Rice Lane. He said he suspected most of the area to be harvested was for timber harvesting, a development had been proposed here in the past. The wood to be harvested is 105,000 board feet white pine, 20,000 board feet spruce and fir, 5,000 board feet of hard maple, 10,000 board feet of white birch, 5,000 board feet of yellow birch, 5,000 board feet of oak, 25,000 board feet of ash, 10,000 board feet of soft maple, 40,000 board feet each of pallet wood, 1,100 tons hardwood pulp wood, 50 tons of hemlock pulp wood, 60 tons of biomass chips.

2. Map 13 Lot 16-1, 5 acres on a 5.05-acre parcel to be harvested

Chair Theis said the location is 680 Lockhaven Road. Chair Theis said that they plan to cut 35,000 board feet of white pine, 20 tons of pulp wood, and 100 tons of biomass chips. This is a near clear cut of the piece of property (along Lockhaven Road. Ms. Struckhoff asked is the location past Crystal Lake? Ms. Davis said it is across from Ms. Aufiero. The property owner plans to build a house in the location.

3. Map 15 Lot 26, 29 acres on a 54.67-acre parcel to be harvested

Chair Theis said this is a property on Jones Hill Road.

4. Map 25 Lot 3, 2 acres on a 5.7-acre parcel to be harvested

Chair Theis said this is a property plans to cut 2000 board feet of hemlock and 3000 board feed of oak. Ms. Green asked the location. Chair Theis said it was Fuller Road. Ms. Struckhoff said this is a class VI road. Mr. Welenc said is this on Shaker Boulevard? It is on Shaker Hill Road.

5. Map 2 Lot 51, Statutory Permit-by-Notification RSA 482-A:3, xiv and Env-Wt-307.03 tree harvest in a wetland. Five acres to be cut in a 5-acre parcel. This appears to be a clear cut of the property.

Chair Theis said this is an area that was brought before the commission once before, as potential building site for a house in a wetland area. DES has issued a series of 8 requirements for the property owner to follow. Prior to commencing work covered by the statutory permit the person responsible for the site shall post at the site a Complete Forestry SPN (printed on Tyvek paper). The property is located off Rice Lane (this is the section of Enfield along I89). Ms. Struckhoff asked are wetlands there? Chair Theis said there are wetlands next to it, the property owner plans to cut most of the property. Mr. Welenc asked, with a statutory permit, this means DES is placing restrictions on them that they must meet? Chair Theis said this is correct. Ms. Struckhoff and Ms. Davis reviewed the maps Chair Theis has prepared, with the properties outlined.

Note, the following conversation took place near the end of the meeting. It has been moved to this section as it pertains to this property Ms. Davis asked, did anyone from the Conservation Commission sign off on the Permit by Notification Map 2 Lot 51 (Rice Lane), tree harvesting in wetlands? Chair Theis said he would look at this; he was not aware. He has not had the opportunity to look at this property. He will contact DES to confirm.

B. Disqualified Seasonal Dock Notification for 199 Crystal Lake Road Enfield Tax Map #045, Lot #030-000

Chair Theis said on January 24, 2022, the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) Wetland Bureau received the above referenced seasonal dock notification for lakes and ponds. The proposed docking structure will not configure to be as required per RSA: 482-A. The proposed dock does not qualify for a permit exception as described in RSA: 482-A:3. No work shall begin until a wetland permit has been obtained and is on site. Any new structure installed without a wetland permit shall be removed.

Ms. Green asked when did they apply for this one? Chair Theis said it was dated January 2022, and the property owner lives in Chapel Hill North Carolina. The property is on Crystal Lake Road. Ms. Struckhoff asked what the property owners want to do at the location? Chair Theis said they want to build a dock. Ms. Green said that the proposed design was not approved. Ms. Green said she is glad to see DES enforcing their regulations. Ms. Struckhoff asked could the Lake Association share that information with landowners? Ms. Green said they do.

C. Shoreland Permit Application for Mascoma Lake Tax map # 22, Lot # 22. Construction of an addition to an existing house, plus an attached garage and a new septic system for a 4-bedroom house.

Chair Theis said he has contacted the builder, and the design of the septic system looks very much like the design of the septic system for the proposed 84 George Hill development. It appears to be an enviro-septic system. Chair Theis has asked the builder for the name of the septic system. Chair Theis said that the road that goes around this property is Foster Circle. The septic system would be pumped uphill (also like the 84 George Hill proposal). The old septic system would be completely replaced by the new system. Ms. Struckhoff asked where is Foster Circle? Ms. Green said it is close to where the daycare center is (Tater Tots, along 4A). Ms. Green asked, can't these homes use town sewer/water? Ms. Struckhoff said it goes by the location along to Lakeview. Ms. Green and Mr. Welenc agreed the proposed septic system is an improvement over the current older system. Chair Theis will follow-up to confirm it is an enviro-septic system. Ms. Struckhoff asked where she can get information on this type of system? Chair Theis will send the information he has on the system to Ms. Struckhoff. Ms. Green said she also has some information she can share. Ms. Green said the water that comes out of the system is said to be useable. A good option for close to a lake or wetland.

D. Answers from Rod Finely to questions posed by the CC regarding Development Project at 84 George Hill Road

Chair Theis said Mr. Finley sent a list of answers from the property owner to the questions the commission brought up at the January 25 meeting.

Regarding an emergency generator Mr. Finely said: Mr. Tabor will have a form of back up. He is unsure if his home will be on or off the grid at this time.

The proposed number of bedrooms is 3.

The US Dept Interior Fish and Wildlife identified the northern long-eared bat, however there is no critical habitat within the project area. Chair Theis said he read the reports from this organization, and they pointed out that just because they didn't find anything does not mean it does not exist.

Mr. Tabor is willing to limit the amount of fertilizer used on the project. He provided a map with the proposed location of the home site, septic system, etc.

Mr. Tabor says there are no plans for further development on the property currently.

Chair Theis said the commission has submitted their evaluation of the project. He offered to pass around the information from Mr. Finley and Mr. Tabor to commission members if they wished to review it as well. Chair Theis said June 29, 2020, at 11:48 AM, Mr. Strickland (the former Chair

162 of the Conservation Commission) said in a letter to Ms. Aufiero: Map 9A, Lot 6 (Mr. Tabor's
163 lot) has over 2,000 feet of wetland and shoreline. Lot 6 should be in the highest of priority in this
164 area, and the town should do everything in its power to protect and buy this lot. Chair Theis said
165 that the town has failed to purchase the property when the opportunity arose, and it is now
166 owned by a private party.

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168 Mr. Tabor has said there is an alternative home site on the property.

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170 Chair Theis said as far as he knows at this point the project is at NH DES Wetland Bureau
171 waiting for a Dredge & Fill permit. Chair Theis said he has a list of 9 items that the Wetland
172 Bureau has asked Mr. Tabor and Pathways Consultants to answer. They are very specific and
173 detailed. Chair Theis provided the list to commission members to review individually.

174
175 Ms. Struckhoff asked, is this located off Bog Road or George Hill Road? Chair Theis said that it
176 is off George Hill Road. The Bog Road proposals required bridges and were rejected as likely to
177 be refused. Mr. Tabor now plans to build a roughly 3,000-foot driveway to his proposed house
178 site from George Hill. Chair Theis said that the commission has suggested an alternate house
179 site location, which would reduce the amount of driveway, number of areas required to bring in
180 utilities, etc. This information was all in the report from the commission. DES said they had
181 received the full report and had no further questions for the Enfield Conservation Commission.
182 Ms. Struckhoff asked, when Mr. Strickland spoke to Ms. Aufiero, was Ms. Aufiero on the
183 Planning Board at that time? Ms. Davis said she believed Ms. Aufiero was not on the Planning
184 Board. Chair Theis said it appeared Ms. Aufiero wrote to Mr. Strickland as a previous member
185 of the Conservation Commission and member of the Town of Enfield, not as any current board
186 or committee member.

187
188 Ms. Green said DES is taking more notice of the runoffs because the cyanobacteria is becoming
189 a bigger and bigger issue. Chair Theis said there was a bill put forth to create a committee to
190 investigate freshwater contamination of cyanobacteria. There have been reports that the toxins
191 associated with cyanobacteria have been linked to neurological diseases. Ms. Green said that
192 from her work on the NH Lakes Board, last summer (2021) the instances of cyanobacteria
193 blooms in the state were much higher than normal. There are concerns about lakes that have had
194 the cyanobacteria blooms, and this can influence the local economy. Ms. Struckhoff asked how
195 the commission can work with the planning board to help them understand the importance of
196 this? Chair Theis said he had previously tried to speak with Chair Fracht of the Planning Board
197 to have Conservation Commission representation on the board, but it was not a priority. Chair
198 Theis said he does not think the Town Manager or Board of Selectmen consult the guide the
199 commission provided at all. Chair Theis said he felt the legislature and many town committees
200 are only looking at the property for tax purposes.

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Chair Theis said that the Enfield community originally attracted people for its open spaces and environmental areas. If they are not protected this will no longer be an attractive area of the town, it will become like Lebanon. The commission needs to publicize these areas and make sure that people know it. Chair Theis said he has a meeting Monday with the new Town Manager to discuss his knowledge of natural resources inventory, and what we can do to make it more important. Chair Theis said he believes the surveys done by the Master Plan Task Force showed the value of open space and the possibilities for recreation in Enfield. This is something that needs to be built on, that could potentially bring in revenue which may not be as seen as building housing. There are some surveys that show private development in single family homes do not generate enough in property tax to make up for the extra services they require. Building houses does not reduce the cost of infrastructure for the town. Ms. Struckhoff asked if Chair Theis can share this with the Master Plan Task Force. He said he will. Ms. Struckhoff suggested Chair Theis speak with Ms. Smith who is Co-Chair of the Master Plan Task Force. Chair Theis said he had suggested at one time that housing for the aging population, which has previously been talked about, be built vertically as opposed to horizontally. Ms. Struckhoff asked if other commission members had visited Prospect Pines, and elderly housing unit that is a very nice example of how to have one.

Note: the following took conversation took place near the end of the meeting. It has been moved to this section of the minutes as it pertains to the 84 George Hill Road property Mr. Welenc asked to introduce the guest at the meeting. Ms. Stewart introduced herself and said that she is both a Selectboard member and abutter to the Tabor property at 84 George Hill, previously discussed at the January 25 meeting. Ms. Stewart had tried to attend via Zoom for the January 25, 2022, meeting – but was unable to speak with the commission due to the Zoom link error where the commission did not access Zoom. Ms. Stewart shared that as an abutter she and Mr. Stewart are happy to see a single-family home, as opposed to what was going to happen with the property's previous owner (then a planned development). They feel that the Tabors are being very responsible and respectful in considering their plans. Ms. Stewart said she had also put a formal request into the town for a copy of the public record that is the Conservation Commission's filing to DES.

E. Wildlife crossing signs for the intersection of Kluge Road and Shaker Hill Rd, Grafton Pond Road between Bicknell Trail parking area and Oak Hill Road intersection and for the entire length of Jones Hill Road Defenders Article Spring 2021 cites the following statistics: In the US automobiles hit one to two million animals each year. Repair costs 8 billion dollars. Most of the animals die and 200 people are killed, 30,000 injured.

Chair Theis said he had received a letter from Mr. Jim Taylor about putting a wildlife crossing sign at the Kluge Road location. The letter from Mr. Taylor said: after speaking with some staff members there are two areas in addition to Kluge Road (as outlined above).

Chair Theis told Mr. Taylor the Conservation Commission would pay for the signs if all commission members agreed on the proposal. He asked if he should proceed to find out the cost of the signs and their installation before he goes further. Ms. Struckhoff said she felt the commission should talk to the Board of Selectmen because the commission has a limited budget.

Chair Theis asked, is it agreed on by the commission that wildlife crossing signs be in those three spots?

Ms. Hagerman MOVED to proceed with estimating the cost of signs, and to add a sign on Boys Camp Road.

Seconded by Ms. Davis

Roll Call Vote:

Leigh Davis, Shirley Green, Sue Hagerman (via Zoom platform), Dolores Struckhoff, Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

None Abstained.

*** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (6-0).**

Chair Theis will investigate the cost of signs, including one on Boys Camp Road (four signs total).

Ms. Green said she used to frequent the location by Kluge Road and there were almost always deer crossing there.

Ms. Hagerman said she would need to sign off at this time due to a class conflict.

F. Conservation Plan for Enfield for consideration.

Chair Theis said after the completion of the Natural Resources Inventory, the next step is to produce the Conservation Plan. He invited commission members to review a map with ranks of wildlife habitats in NH, and in the biological area. He explained ~40% of the wildlife in Enfield use the highlighted areas, and roughly 50% of the wildlife in NH use them. It will be beneficial if the commission can preserve the areas in Enfield from being developed. Chair Theis explained that he chose to overlay the areas, as well as the map and lot numbers, and the present uses of the properties within this highlighted area.

Chair Theis said he would like to put together an educational brochure and send it on Conservation Commission stationery to landowners in all the highlighted areas. The brochure would point out the importance of open spaces and their benefits to individuals and the community. Chair Theis said he would like to give the information to Mr. Welenc, Ms. Davis, and Ms. Struckhoff and have them each take one aspect (health, open space, wildlife) and find as

much information as possible to include in the letter. The conservation plan can be developed by showing what areas of the town need to be considered for conservation, and why.

Ms. Struckhoff asked if Chair Theis will assign the specific topics to them each? Chair Theis said they may each work on all 3 or choose one each if they would like amongst themselves. Ms. Struckhoff asked if instead of a letter would a tri-fold pamphlet be better, with more than just typed words? This could then be used to share with others as well. Chair Theis said he was open to this.

The three categories are: Health, Wildlife, Recreation

Chair Theis will send a copy of these properties he identified to commission members by email.

Ms. Struckhoff asked what is the outcome of the piece being sent to the landowners? Chair Theis said to bring attention to the importance of conservation and how it pertains to the properties they own. Ms. Green said this brings an awareness to people who may not have any idea. Ms. Struckhoff and Ms. Green agreed a pamphlet could be useful for landowners as well as the public.

Chair Theis said the conservation plan is supposed to become a part of the town's Master Plan. If this can get written, he will ask to have it included in the master plan. Chair Theis asked for a rough draft of some information by the next meeting in March.

Ms. Struckhoff, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Welenc decided that the three categories would be: Health (Struckhoff), Wildlife (Davis), and Open Spaces (Welenc).

G. Budget Appropriations for Conservation Commission in 2021 zeroed out, new budget for 2022 not yet allocated.

Chair Theis said that any money left in the Conservation Commission budget was zeroed out and distributed to be used for town budget overages elsewhere. There was 34.75% of the Conservation Commission budget left.

The Conservation Trust is over \$10,000 and will have added another \$4,387.60 that auditors found to be misappropriated. The Trust is not lost in the same way the yearly budget funds can be. Ms. Davis said many NH municipalities have established a rollover fund where they can vote to place an unexpended balance of the commission into the annual appropriation. Chair Theis said they do not have this yet. Ms. Davis said that Bristol or Grafton had done a warrant about land use change tax. Ms. Struckhoff suggested that the commission explore this for next year (the time for adding articles to the warrant for 2022 has passed). Chair Theis said this would be worthwhile to work on.

Ms. Davis said remember when we had discussed having an open house to invite community members to meet Conservation Commission members. This could help get community members devoted. Ms. Davis also suggested a program for children, possibly at the schools, to gain interest. Chair Theis said this would be a good idea. We need people who understand this area, who have lived here a while to present.

H. Human Population shifts occurring in the United States and potential effects on Wildlife

Chair Theis shared data on cultural shifts and population shifts. The Northeast region (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire) experienced the highest net population decrease with almost 366,000 residents moving away. Chair Theis said he believes Enfield experiencing growth based on the number of home sales happening recently. Chair Theis says he sees it as important to get long-range preservation in the minds of community members before it's too late.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Welenc shared a recent read that he found with good stories that he felt tied into the earlier discussion on wildlife and crossing signs, accidents, etc. He shared the book *About This Life: Journey's on the Threshold of Memories* by Barry Lopez. There is a particular story where Mr. Lopez describes the animals, he finds dead along the road, it reads almost like an apology. It is very moving. Mr. Welenc shared he felt if people were more mindful, and see signs, they will think about these things more.

Chair Theis shared photographs he had taken of trash along roadways in town etc.

VI. NEXT MEETING: March 3, 2022

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Welenc MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Seconded by Chair Theis

Roll Call Vote:

Leigh Davis, Shirley Green, Dolores Struckhoff, Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

None Abstained.

** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Banker

Recording Secretary