

Enfield Conservation Commission – Meeting Minutes for April 7,2022.

Attendance: Dr. Jerold Theis, Chair (JT); Mrs. Shirley Green (SG); Mrs. Leigh Davis (LD).

Absent: Mrs. Sue Hagerman due to illness; Mr. John Welenc (JW) due to family emergency.

Staff absent: Mrs. Whitney Banker, recording secretary, due to maternity leave. This meeting was recorded.

Guest: Mr. Kurt Gotthardt.

I. Call to order at 7:00 PM by JT

II. Minutes of March 3, 2022 read and approved 3-0 with two corrections. Line 19 should read 7:00 PM not 6:00 PM. Line 418 should read if not is.

III. Mr. Gotthardt presented 3 signs to the CC for the boat launches in Enfield detailing the manner and importance of washing boat exteriors before and after use in Enfield Lakes. These signs will be placed at appropriate locations. He also gave the CC the results of his monitoring of game trails in Enfield and the species using such trails and the habitat vegetation associated with such trails. His data spans several years and will be of value in placing wildlife crossing signs to warn motorists. The CC thanked Mr. Gotthardt for his donations and his efforts to provide information on wildlife movements in Enfield.

IV. Old Business:

- A. The notice from the Superior Court, State of New Hampshire, regarding an appeal of a ZBA ruling on a stair way and deck at 360 Crystal Lake Rd, Tax Map 46, Lot 16, was reviewed. Court's ruling was that medical issues take precedence over setback regulations where access to rooms in emergency situations is concerned.
- B. Book by Barry Lopez, recommended by (JW), was loaned to (LD). The author conveys his feelings about the fate of wildlife traversing roads in the United States.
- C. Review of quote from the sign shop of the NH Correctional Institute to manufacture eight (8) Wildlife Crossing Signs was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to spend \$768.00 for the eight signs from the CC Trust account. Vote was passed 3-0. JT was authorized to order the signs, which will be installed at each end of the following roads: Kluge, Boys Camp, Jones Hill, and Grafton Pond.

V. New Business

A. Shoreland Permits were received from DES for the following locations: 9 Depot St, Tax Map 34, lot 44; 296 Shaker Blvd, Tax Map 26, Lot 13; 302 Shaker Blvd, Tax Map 26, Lot 12; 37 Foster Circle, Tax Map 22, Lot 22. DES has reviewed these applications and made appropriate determinations. These applications are required by RSA 483 and copies of the applications are sent to the Town and the CC. When an Application by Notification meets the requirements of RSA 483 no notice is sent from DES to the Town or the CC.

B. Vegetation removal beyond permissible limits, at 65 French Rd. Tax Map 17, Lot 24. Paul French has received a notice from NHDES, following inspection of this property, that by March 7, 2022 he is to submit a shoreland restoration plan to the NHDES for the restoration of the water front and natural woodland buffer. The CC discussed the numerous violations by citizens in Enfield as well as property owners residing in other States of measures designed to protect the water quality of the lakes in Enfield. Both RSA483-B:11 and Env-Wq 1412.04 and Env-Wq 1412.05 are repeatedly ignored by water front property owners. These regulations are designed to reduce silting and other types of pollution by establishing a minimum of tree and shrub cover along the shoreline of streams, rivers and lakes. These regulations are graphically shown in the Diagrams below. Starting from the water's edge a 50 foot buffer of vegetation must be maintained. This is the Waterfront Buffer. The next in land measurement from the water's edge is the Woodland Buffer, which extends 150 feet in land from the water's edge and must have vegetation of specific size and density to comply with the Shoreland Water Quality Act, RSA483-B. The third distance from the water's edge is termed the Protected Shoreland and extends 250 feet from the water's edge. This area must also have specific vegetation size and density to control water runoff and silting. Before any property owner, on a lake, alters the shoreline terrain or removes vegetation they would be well advised to consult the Shoreland Water Quality Act (SWQPA) on the New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services web site. If you have questions about what is required you can also contact DES at 1-603-271-3503 and ask for the agent responsible for Grafton County to advise you regarding the plan for the Shoreland. Neighbors can and should report suspected violations of the Shoreland Protection Act to the CC, with specific details so that it can be forwarded to the DES for investigation. Protection of our lakes is every ones duty.

C. Update of the Towns Hazard Mitigation Plan has added septic seepage to the list of environmental concerns about old septic systems around lakes and streams here in Enfield. The Crystal Lake Association has recently begun sending water samples collected by boat along the shoreline for bacterial culture. Some of the sampled have been reported to contain E. coli, an intestinal bacteria. It is possible that these are from wildlife, as the movement of animals around lake edges is one of the corridors used by them. Determining the specific strain of E. coli to determine if they are of human origin is being pursued.

D. The proposed 2022 Town budget for the CC is the same as that for 2021: \$ 2, 725.00. The CC also has a Trust fund at the Mascoma Bank which currently amounts to \$ 16,363. 89 cents.

E. Correspondence: The CC has received a letter from Keith Nicholson which will be passed on to the DES. We have also been advised of the presence of Norway Maples', an invasive species, in Shaker Park.

F. Update on the Conservation Plan being prepared by the CC. A digital map has been prepared showing the Highest Ranked Habitats in New Hampshire that are located in Enfield, the Highest Ranked Habitats in the Biological Region of Enfield as well as the Supporting Habitats. These areas are used by 40% of all wildlife in Enfield and are essential to protect from development if wildlife is to be protected. A listing by Tax Map, Block and lot number, acreage, current owner and use has been prepared and will accompany the map. This information will be supplied to the Land use and Development agent for the Town of Enfield when completed. There are 110 properties in Enfield that have these important habitats on their land. Educational material will be sent to these land owners informing them of the value to the community and themselves in preserving these areas.

G. LD has been assigned the task of arranging a guest speaker to present a talk at Old Home Days at a location to be announced later.

H. The lack of participation by Citizens at the March 2022 election was discussed. There are 2,976 registered voters in Enfield. Only 440 ballots were casted. This amounts to 15% of the eligible voters. The citizens must begin to participate in all elections if a truly democratic representation is to be achieved.

I. A motion to adjourn was made by SG and second by LD Vote to adjourn 3-0. Minutes

Submitted by JT.

