

Enfield Conservation Commission – Meeting Minutes
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/ZOOM
PLATFORM
June 16, 2022

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Leigh Davis, Shirley Green,
Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Whitney Banker-Recording Secretary

GUESTS: None

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. ELECT OFFICERS:

Chair Theis introduced officer elections for Vice-Chair and asked if there was interest from other members in being Vice-Chair. Ms. Davis volunteered to run for Vice-Chair if Ms. Green did not wish to continue as Vice-Chair for the next year. Ms. Davis said she felt Ms. Green was very knowledgeable to have as Vice-Chair, but what now sure it involved much. Mr. Welenc said that the role of the Vice-Chair is often to continue as Chair in the future, in his experience. He was unsure if this was the same case for Conservation Commission. Ms. Green agreed to continue as Vice-Chair for the year.

Chair Theis MOVED to appoint Ms. Green as Vice-Chair for the year, 2022-2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Leigh Davis, Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

Shirley Green Abstained.

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (3-0-1).***

Chair Theis moved on to officer elections for Chair. Members agreed they wished to have Chair Theis continue as Chair for this year, and no other members wanted to run for Chair.

41 ***Chair Theis MOVED*** to continue as Chair for the year, 2022-2023.

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43 **Roll Call Vote:**

44 **Leigh Davis, Shirley Green, John Welenc** all voting Yea.

45 **None** voted Nay.

46 **Jerold Theis** Abstained.

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48 **** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (3-0-1).***

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51 **III. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES: March 1, 2022, and May 12, 2022**

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53 **A. March 1, 2022**

54 ***Chair Theis MOVED*** to approve the March 1, 2022, Minutes presented in the June 16,
55 2022, agenda packet as presented and amended.

56 ***Seconded by Ms. Davis***

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58 Amendments: N/A

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60 **Roll Call Vote:**

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

62 **None** voted Nay.

63 **Shirley Green** Abstained.

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65 **** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (3-0-1).***

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67 **B. May 12, 2022**

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69 ***Mr. Welenc MOVED*** to approve the May 12, 2022, Minutes presented in the June 16, 2022,
70 agenda packet as presented and amended.

71 ***Seconded by Ms. Green***

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73 Amendments:

74 Line 125 – change “manager” to “owner”

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76 **Roll Call Vote:**

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

78 **None** voted Nay.

79 **None** Abstained.

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81 **** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (4-0).***

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IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Approval of invoice from correctional Industries for wildlife crossing signs

Chair Theis said that the total of \$768 would be coming as a bill for the wildlife crossing signs.

Ms. Green MOVED to approve spending a total of \$768 for the wildlife crossing signs.

Seconded by Mr. Welenc

Roll Call Vote:

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

None voted Nay.

Shirley Green Abstained.

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (4-0).***

Chair Theis said that the discussion from the Board of Selectmen to approve putting up the signs had been tabled at their last meeting until they could speak with the police department. Chair Theis provided to Ms. Bonnette (Assistant Town Manager) information that had been collected by Mr. Kurt Gotthardt to the board, as well as information from Public Works Director Jim Taylor. Chair Theis said that he hopes that the sign placement will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting after reviewing that information.

Public Works has agreed to put up the signs. The Conservation Commission will pay them for time and materials (posts).

B. Approval of payment to Mrs. Banker, Recording Secretary.

Chair Theis has already authorized the payment.

C. Delivery of Boat Launch signs donated by Kurt Gotthardt to DPW. They will install them at Mascoma Lake boat launch, Mascoma Park, and Crystal Lake.

Chair Theis said that the Public Works Department will put up these signs without charging the Conservation Commission.

D. DES Shoreland impact permit 2022-00457 for Tax Map #34, Lot # 44 Approval granted.

Chair Theis said that this permit was approved. Ms. Davis clarified that it was the property off Depot Street.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Repair of Bridge and Walkway over wetland on Colet Trail off Boys Camp RD.

Chair Theis sought approval to pay \$497.66 to Mr. Alan Strickland for the materials used for repairs he had done to the bridge and walkway for Bicknell Brook Trail.

127 Motion – Welenc

128 Second – Davis

129 All in favor – approved for payment

131 Chair Theis will work with Ms. Crandall to have the account charged.

133 **B. Approval of Letter and Enclosure to Dubois & King regarding invasive plant control program.**

135 Chair Theis said that this was approved by the Board of Selectmen at their May 16, 2022, meeting. At that meeting, he offered to send the Natural Resources Inventory to Dubois & King with information on Enfield properties.

139 Chair Theis read the letter he drafted to Dubois & King on behalf of the Conservation Commission regarding consideration of Japanese Knotweed and private properties, as well as neighboring town Canaan with possible spread via the Mascoma River waterway.

143 Chair Theis asked the commission if there were any edits, or if they were in favor of him sending the letter and natural resources inventory from 2021.

146 Motion – Davis to accept the letter drafted

147 Second – Welenc

148 All in favor

150 Chair Theis will send the letter and the Natural Resources Inventory out tomorrow, June 17, 2022.

153 **C. Restoration of Walking Trail at Shaker Recreation Park Enfield Recreation Commission.**

155 Chair Theis said that an Eagle Scout project had been proposed to restore this trail (which also transitions to a cross-country ski trail in the wintertime).

158 The commission was unsure of the location of the trail.

160 **D. Appointment of Mr. Kevin Marker as Recreation Director effective June 13, 2022**

161 Chair Theis said that he has been thinking for some time about the need for a Trail Master in Enfield. He has spoken with Mr. Alan Strickland about the possibility of being this, Trail Master; Mr. Strickland is interested.

165 Chair Theis plans to propose to Recreation to co-sponsor the Trail Master. Chair Theis will propose that the pay be \$25 per hour for the time spent paid directly from the Conservation Commission.

169 In addition to keeping the trails open, signage will also need to be put up about and along the trails. Chair Theis will speak with the recreation department about this. Some trails will also need to be closed between May and July for the fawning season: Harris Brook Park, Smith Pond Trail, Collette Trail, Bicknell Brook Trail, etc.

Chair Theis asked if any members had objections to him pursuing this with Mr. Marker. Mr. Welenc said his only concern would be how much the Conservation Commission can afford to pay for this position. Chair Theis said that there is \$16,000+/- in the trust fund that he believes would cover a lot of hours for this position. If the recreation department approves, the number of hours per month, etc. can be determined at that point. Ms. Green said this may also be something they can put in the budget for the following year. Chair Theis said that he also recently found out from Ms. Crandall that budgetary allocations unused can be petitioned to be put into the trust fund.

At present time 91.01% of the budget is still available.

E. Dredge and Fill Application & Shoreland Permit Application for 12 Melendy Lane, Tax Map # 21, Lot# 48.

Chair Theis said he has been to the location to speak with the property owner designing this project. He provided the maps for the project for members to review. He explained to committee members where the wetlands are along the road and the area where they plan to shift/widen the road into the wetlands. This is not a town road; it belongs to the property owner.

Chair Theis explained where the property owner plans to put an addition. It is well beyond the required setback. The new structure will have 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, and an existing cabin will have 1 bath added. They will be attaching to the town sewer (not town water – there is a well). Effluent will need to be pumped through a 26' rise that is 80' long to get to the town sewer hookup. If electricity fails, the property owner will need to stop the use of the sewer until electricity is restored.

Chair Theis wrote to DES with his concerns for the project, including the length of the sewer lines and the potential failure of the pump with the loss of electricity (and no electrical backup). There are several points where electricity could fail. Chair Theis asked for any other concerns from commission members. Mr. Welenc asked what would happen if the electricity failed and the property owners continued to use their sewer. Chair Theis said it would cause backflow into the house. Mr. Welenc asked if there is a risk of the backflow ending up in the lake. Chair Theis said he did not think it was likely. The risk to habitat is minimal, but it has a risk to public health.

Ms. Davis said she was interested in the wetlands situation. Chair Theis explained the edge of the wetland and the proposed extension of the road 10'-15' into that wetland. The road would be moved into the wetland, and there would be a channel to funnel water into the wetlands. Mr. Welenc said he did not see any issues with this. Chair Theis said he had pointed out the channel would need to be deep enough to handle the runoff, and the fill should not contain much clay.

Commission members were all in agreement that Chair Theis should send the letter to DES with the items he pointed out as discussed.

F. Shoreland Permit applications

i. Tax Map # 17, Lot# 24 at 65 French Road.

Chair Theis said that he contacted the DES, Brandy Holmes, about this project. They are using the existing cottage to grandfather the footprint for a proposed new house. The house does not meet the setback requirements of 51' from the pond, nor the wetland requirement. The property will have a new septic system and a new well. The property owner expects that the septic system will be an enviro-septic system.

Chair Theis showed commission members the map where the new septic and well are proposed. He said that his concern would be the setback, but because of the grandfather clause, the new home is allowed within the setback.

The property owners have listed plantings and trees that they intend to put in as well.

ii. Tax Map #17, Lot #26

Chair Theis said that Ms. Holmes is working with this one as well. There is not much information to discuss.

G. Intent to Cut Notice: Tax Map #01, Lot #10

Chair Theis said that Mr. Conkey plans to reopen a gravel pit that had previously closed. He intends to cut 400k board feet of white pine, 50k board feet of red pine, 100k feet of spruce and fir, 20k feet of hard maple, 10k feet of white birch, 10k feet of yellow birch, 5k feet of oak, 10k feet of ash, 10k feet soft maple, 3k tons of biochips. The land was purchased recently and is to be cleared to open the gravel pit.

Chair Theis said this is right next to the conservation property on Bog Road and is against the wetlands that extend from the Springfield town line down to George Pond.

Chair Theis asked Ms. Huntly what, if any, responsibility the Conservation Commission has regarding this. Ms. Huntley had said that for New Hampshire, the responsibility is with the state and not the municipality.

VI: CORRESPONDENCE:

A. New Hampshire Public Radio Regarding Land Fill near Forest Lake in Dalton. Need for site placement regulations near bodies of water.

Chair Theis said that the legislation proposed says if a Land Fill is near a waterway, there must be proof that leaching from the landfill will not get into the body of water for 5 years. Chair Theis said this has been tabled, not passed.

B. DES notification of Cyanobacteria bloom in Mascoma Lake and follow-up.

Chair Theis said that the Cyanobacteria notification had been lifted. He contacted DES to clarify what they meant by "dispersed". This means that the bacteria bloom has been spread out but has not disappeared. The toxins are potentially still there, although there is no definition of toxic levels. DES only measures cells, not toxin levels.

C. NHACC Legislative Update June 2022.

Chair Theis said that he believed the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions Legislative Wrap Up for 2022 is available on their website: <https://www.nhacc.org/>

Chair Theis shared highlights of the wrap-up with the commission:

- NHAAC had tabled a bill that would have affected the town's ability to regulate guns on town property.

- They started a cyanobacteria study committee to prepare a plan relative to the cyanobacteria blooms in New Hampshire.

- A final version of the Upland Invasive Species Program was adopted.

- House Bill 1109 – allows municipalities to limit the operation of Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles (OHRVs) on certain byways.

D. NH municipal Association Local official Virtual Workshop

Chair Theis said he attended this workshop that reviewed regulations of the state. They reviewed the “right to know” regulations: “government records requested electronically or by paper of a public body applies to commissions”. Drafts of minutes must be available. The Conservation Commission is aware of this.

Selectboard can meet without a quorum using a substitute member with superior court approval.

E. July Newsletter, deadline from Assistant Town Manager.

Chair Theis said that the July newsletter deadline is June 29. He asked that if members have anything they wish to include in the newsletter, to pass it around to members for approval so it can be included by the deadline.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Wind Farms and effect on Wildlife. Are wind farms really Green Energy.

B. Wetlands and Water: article from Ducks Unlimited and its relation to Enfield

Chair Theis said that he will plan to put excerpts of this into the draft letter to property owners that the commission plans to send. Mr. Welenc shared his draft with members to review his topic: the importance of undeveloped land in Enfield.

Mr. Welenc shared that he came up with reasons why Enfield needs to conserve land, and then ways to do it. Chair Theis said that he suggested a letter of no more than 3 total pages. Mr. Welenc and Ms. Davis' additions will be bullet-points in this letter. He would like to have a draft reviewed at the July meeting. Mr. Welenc asked members to review his draft and provide feedback. Mr. Welenc said he included some excerpts from Aldo Leopold's: *A Sand County Almanac*.

Chair Theis said that sources for the Natural Resources Inventory are on reserve at the Enfield Public Library for the public to review if they wish. Copies cannot be checked out but can be reviewed in the library.

C. Water wells in California going dry and relation to Enfield growth and water wells.

Chair Theis said that Enfield had received 1.33 million dollars from the NH Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (<https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants/drinking-water-state-revolving-fund>). The town plans to use this to dig a new well and make improvements to drinking water quality. The current well that provides the most water is heavily contaminated with alpha-radiation. The state of California is experiencing issues with private wells running dry, and with so many private wells in Enfield, this is the type of thing the Conservation Commission should inform community members about.

Chair Theis shared the importance of the aquifers that feed wells in Enfield and how they can become smaller over time for various reasons. He said he felt that at some point the Conservation Commission should put out information or a newsletter about this for community members.

D. Cat Buxton's Edible Landscaping – Old

Ms. Davis shared that the classes are virtual. Chair Theis said this could also be excerpted into communication as well as put on the Conservation Commission town website. Chair Theis suggested excerpts for the July 2022 town newsletter.

Ms. Davis said she will find out if they can take the virtual classes.

E. Input for Newsletter

Chair Theis emphasized that any time a committee member has information they would like to share that would be helpful for the community, to write it up and send it to him to be included in the newsletter each month.

F. Old Home Speaker Cat Buxton

Ms. Davis said that Cat Buxton is confirmed for Old Home Day. She will get an invoice to Chair Theis for payment.

Ms. Davis shared that the speaker will tailor her presentation specifically to the needs of Enfield.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: July 7, 2022

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Green MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:34p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Welenc

Roll Call Vote:

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

None voted Nay.

None Abstained.

** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (4-0).*

Respectfully submitted,

Enfield Conservation Commission Minutes, June 16, 2022

353 Whitney Banker
354 Recording Secretary
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