

Enfield Conservation Commission – Meeting Minutes
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/MICROSOFT
TEAMS PLATFORM
September 1, 2022

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Leigh Davis, Doug Smith,
Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Shirley Green (Vice-Chair)

STAFF PRESENT: Whitney Banker-Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Kurt Gotthardt

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chair Theis called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and took a “roll call” of members present.

Chair Theis said that Ms. Green had notified him that she would not attend this evening.

II. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES: August 4, 2022

Mr. Welenc MOVED to approve the August 4, 2022, Minutes presented in the September 1, 2022, agenda packet as presented and amended.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Amendments: N/A

Roll Call Vote:

Leah Davis, Doug Smith, Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

None Abstained.

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

III. OLD BUSINESS

1) Aug 8, 2022, copy charges for material to be mailed to 110 property owners. Due to Gnomon Copy delay in printing their charge was reduced from \$151.00 to \$131.00.

Chair Theis said that the previous quote from Gnomon Copy was changed and is being covered by an anonymous donor. There will be no charge to the conservation fund.

2). Aug 16,2022 Voluntary Water Use Restrictions advised by the Town for Immediate

Action. Chair Theis said there was a notice about a voluntary water use restriction for those on town water effective immediately. Chair Theis said that he believes they have discussed the importance of water in the community, including in the Natural Resources Inventory, and the fact that the carrying capacity could be overwhelmed. There is also the fact that McConnell well has too much alpha-radiation, so it is not as useful. Mr. Smith said that Grafton Pond is being dropped early in the season. He asked why they are dropping the water so early this year. Chair Theis said that he believed it was taken down under the state's purvey, not the communities last year for repair of the dam.

Chair Theis said that Mr. Smith may write him a letter, he belongs to the Board of Directors of the NHACC and is also on the legislative group. He can bring this to their attention to find out why they are dropping Grafton Pond so early in the season (or ask for a delay in doing so). Mr. Smith said Bicknell Brook is quite full right now. Chair Theis said with the fast-moving water in the streams is more erosion, and one thing damaging the lakes is silting from these streams. Enfield has a succession of the way lakes go down to ponds, marshes, and vegetation. Mr. Welenc asked if they had read that Lebanon plans to dig a deep well instead of drawing water from a lake. Chair Theis said he was aware that they are in the process of abandoning Mascoma lake as a water source; he said it is in process. Chair Theis said they must be mindful of the fact that until they drill and tap it, they must be sure the well isn't contaminated with radiation (like the McConnell well). Mr. Smith said the Connecticut River from Hanover down has a lot of metal waste and heavy metals in the silt, which could be a potential concern if that water were to try to be used as drinking water.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:**1). Tax Map 47, Lot 01 Administratively Incomplete Standard Dredge and Fill Permit Application. Aug 04, 2022, & Aug 27, 2022 notification from Bonin Architects for Map 47 lot 1 a Wetland Permit Will be filed with DES for an expedited minimum impact on the property.**

Chair Theis said that this permit was originally returned for being administratively incomplete. Since then, the architect has also been notified they need a wetland permit which they are in the process of filing with the NH DES.

The landowner intends to build a dock, that requires a path to it. In addition to a dredge and fill permit, a wetland permit is required that DES will review.

Chair Theis explained that on the map received from the architect the purple area was the one DES would look at, the wetland area. There was some discussion of the location of the property, as well as the proposed locations of the pathway and dock. Chair Theis said this was received by him only yesterday. He believes DES is handling this well, and there is no need for the Conservation Commission to be involved. Mr. Welenc and Ms. Davis agreed.

Chair Theis said that this property was subdivided before the zoning ordinance came to be but is small and he has been in contact with DES regarding the lot size and proposed house size. There is no restriction on building a house on 1.23-acres. Chair Theis said he pointed out in the letter to

DES that on acreage that small, building a 4-bedroom house with an additional house with 1-bedroom, may pose an issue for sewage disposal.

2). Aug 18, 2022, Map 44, Lot 28 DES sets conditions for Shoreland Impact Permit 2022-02062.

Not Discussed

B. INTENT TO CUT

1). Map 13, lot 35 Potato Road 60/172 to be cut.

Chair Theis said that the property owner is a large landowner on the property. The lot is 172 acres, and they plan to cut 60 acres which are within the limits of previous town regulations for wood harvesting. He said that the town is only interested in recording the board feed to be harvested for tax purposes.

Chair Theis said that the value of cutting timber is that it increases the diversity of the habitat which can increase the diversity of the wildlife there. Harvesting is not a problem if done reasonably well and cleaned up. He said that there is a question of if the harvesting is to subdivide the property. This has not been stated yet, but the Conservation Commission will see if anything comes about for a subdivision there.

C. CORRESPONDENCE

1). Note from Mr. John Sobutka regarding an invasive reed, *Phragmites australis*, that Marsh land. Found on Bog Road and behind Walmart in Lebanon.

Chair Theis shared Mr. Sobutka's correspondence on this reed that is taking over marshlands. He said an example is down behind Walmart in West Lebanon. Mr. Sobutka has found this on Bog Road in a pond someone has there. Chair Theis said he does not know if the town is aware of this problem. He had someone from the New Hampshire Lakes Division who had not heard of this weed either. She will call Mr. Sobutka.

This invasive species is much like the Japanese Knotweed – very difficult to get rid of.

Chair Theis said he thinks this will not be easily or fully eradicated anytime soon, if ever. It will increase the disappearance of marshes.

2). Letter from Ms. Barbara Jones regarding proposed development of a Beach at the end of Johnson Road on the border between Enfield and Lebanon.

Chair Theis shared Ms. Jones's correspondence, with interest in the town-owned property at the end of Johnson Road. Mr. Welenc said this is on Route 4, right at the Lebanon line. Ms. Davis said she is under the impression there are a lot of ROWs that have been granted. Mr. Welenc said it is right across from the rail trail and gets a lot of traffic as well.

Chair Theis said this would not be something that the Conservation Commission would have much to say about. Mr. Welenc said a big concern is traffic and potential accidents. Chair Theis

said that Ice House Road was another consideration for parking with access to this property if it were to be made a park.

This would not be something that would involve the Conservation Commission. Chair Theis said that Town Manager Morris was proposing to tear down the homes and have a 50-car parking lot in this location.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

1). Cat Buxton Old Home Day Speaker

Ms. Davis said that Ms. Buxton needs a projector to do her slide presentation, she has a Mac. Ms. Davis asked if she should contact the town about the adapter. Ms. Banker suggested yes, there is a specific adapter required. Ms. Banker also offered to check her cable stash as well (she has a Mac).

Chair Theis asked Ms. Davis to write down the time/place/date via email and he will see if they can get it out on the website. Ms. Banker will also send the information out on the Enfield Listserv.

2). Budget for 2023

Chair Theis said that the budget for next year must be into Assistant Town Manager Bonnette by the end of this month. He asked for members to review the budget for this year and let him know if there are any areas where they feel an increase is needed. He said that last year about \$3500 was leftover and went into the general fund. This year, he is going to ask that the funds be put into the Conservation Commission Trust Fund. He said he must request that this be put there.

Ms. Davis asked if this must be a warrant. Chair Theis said no, it would just be something he has to request. He said that there would need to be a warrant for an increased buffer of 250' from wetlands. He believed that the deadline for submitting this in November. Chair Theis said he felt this was the major one relevant to Conservation Commission to be put forward. He asked if members could think of any others that would be useful and have a good chance of passing, to send to him. He said a sufficient amount of justification would need to be written that would be published.

VI. NEXT MEETING: October 6, 2022

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Davis MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Roll Call Vote:

Leah Davis, Doug Smith, Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc all voting Yea.

168 **None voted Nay.**

169 **None Abstained.**

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

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173 Respectfully submitted,

174 Whitney Banker

175 Recording Secretary

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