

**Enfield Conservation Commission – Meeting Minutes**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**December 1, 2022**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Leigh Davis, Shirley Green (Vice-Chair), Doug Smith, Jerold Theis (Chair)

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Welenc

**STAFF PRESENT:** Whitney Banker-Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:** None

*Note: this meeting was not available on Microsoft Teams as the shared computer to access was not in the DPW conference room.*

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chair Theis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**II. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES: November 3, 2022**

***Mr. Smith MOVED* to approve the November 3, 2022, Minutes presented in the December 1, 2022, agenda packet as presented.**

***Seconded by Ms. Davis***

Amendments:

-Overall – update dates (October 6 to November 3, September to October etc.)

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Leigh Davis, Shirley Green (Vice-Chair), Doug Smith, Jerold Theis (Chair) all voting Yea.**

**None voted Nay.**

**None Abstained.**

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

**III. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1). Approval of Payment for Nov. charges from Recording Secretary.**

Chair Theis said that he had approved the charges for Ms. Banker's invoice for the November minutes. Ms. Banker confirmed that she had received the payment from Ms. Crandall.

**2). Tax Map 32, lot 006: Wetland Notification by Permit**

Chair Theis said this property owner is trying to repair an existing structure (retaining wall).

Vice-Chair Green said that if they don't make any changes (such as making the wall larger), she has no questions about this. Other members agreed they had no questions.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS****1). Tax Map 48, Lot 3A Crystal Lake shoreland permit application**

The application says they plan to put a 3-bedroom home, septic system, and well for water within the shoreland limit. This includes an excavation permit.

Chair Theis said that the issue he saw is that the application says they will not alter the terrain; however, the permit is to excavate. He asked members if they agreed that the Conservation Commission should send a letter to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to ask if they plan to have no alteration of terrain with excavation. Mr. Smith said that he did not think they needed to address this as it is possible to excavate without alerting terrain.

Chair Theis said that he also had questions about the impervious area listed and that it said the project did not require a stormwater management plan or that waterfront buffers did not require vegetation management within the woodland buffer. NH DES says that within the woodland buffer, between 50' and 150', at least 25% of the area must be managed as natural woodland. Chair Theis asked members if they agreed he should add to the DES letter that they maintain the 25%. Commission members decided to add this as well.

Chair Theis confirmed that he would write to NH DES with questions about stormwater management, waterfront buffer, and woodland buffer.

**2). Submission of three warrant articles to BOS on Dec.5 meeting****Submission of one warrant article to Planning Board Dec 14 meeting.**

Assistant Town Manager Bonnette asked for warrant articles submitted by December 25 to be on the Selectboard agenda for early January. Chair Theis had already sent these to her and hoped they could be reviewed at the December 5 meeting.

Chair Theis and Ms. Davis will attend the Selectboard meeting on December 5.

Chair Theis and Ms. Davis will be present at the Planning Board meeting on December 14 if the article is on the Planning Board agenda for that meeting.

Chair Theis will let members know if the articles will be reviewed at the December board meetings discussed or not.

**3) Preparing petition forms for four warrant articles for citizen signatures.**

Chair Theis said he had prepared the petition forms for each member to gather signatures for the four articles that the Conservation Commission supports adding to the warrant for Town Meeting 2023.

Chair Theis said he had stapled the four warrant articles' verbiage. He made each page headings with a printed name, signature, and address. If each Conservation Commission member gets five signatures for each article, they will have 25 for each (needed to petition).

The Selectboard will review three articles at their meeting on Monday, December 5. If they do not approve the three articles, they can still be approved by petition.

The Planning Board will review the setback article at their meeting Wednesday, December 14. If they do not approve the article, it can still be approved by petition.

Petitions for articles must be submitted by February.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE****1). Boil water notices for Enfield**

Chair Theis said that he thinks these kinds of things involving both drought and contamination of well water relate to the Conservation Commission's concerns about the water supply for the community.

In addition to the bacteria issue in 2022, there was a drought notice in 2020 and 2022. Chair Theis said that a carrying capacity sufficient to compensate for problems with the decline of natural resources is essential for all community members – both on municipal water and private wells.

**2). BCM Environmental & Land Law PLLC Optional Powers of RSA 36-A:4-a**

Chair Theis said that this is the RSA relevant to Conservation Commissions. The correspondence text includes the Conservation Commissions' purpose and powers of the Conservation Commissions. There have been changes to the RSA, and this correspondence indicates the changes.

Chair Theis will get copies of the document and send it to each member of the Conservation Commission.

Chair Theis said that based on this update, he believes that the Conservation Commission could purchase the land they are proposing to be a Town Forest. He put up the warrant article as a designated Town Forest, which has further protections for the land from the state.

**3). Wetland Statutes changes RSA 482-A:28 and 29,30,31,32.**

Chair Theis read the updated changes to the statutes.

Commission members agreed that it is essential to encourage membership throughout the town and state of individuals passionate about conservation and preservation.

**4). Mascoma River Local Advisory Commission.**

Chair Theis said that he recently attended a meeting of this commission. They meet on the first Monday of the Month at the Enfield Community Building. They are trying to establish several parks along the Mascoma River in Lebanon for whitewater rafting. The commission determined that there is no significant whitewater in Enfield, so they will not be developing in town. They are trying to raise funds for whitewater pull-outs in Lebanon. One is near the Hannaford grocery store, and this property also houses the location of the Lebanon and Enfield sewage treatment plant.

**5). Master Plan Draft for Enfield.**

Chair Theis shared a printed draft of the Master Plan and let members know they can contact Mr. Rob Taylor for a printed copy.

Chair Theis said that he had also spoken with Mr. Taylor and Planning Board Chair Fracht about including the content of the recent list of properties with the highest-ranked habitat be included in the Master Plan. The Conservation Commission will also be invited to participate in the upcoming round of chapters that the Master Plan Task Force will begin in 2023.

**6). The State of New Hampshire's Birds.**

Chair Theis shared information on the disappearance of the Bobolink bird and the issues with reduced habitat for nesting and lack of species as a result.

Chair Theis explained that conservation, keeping open space and habitat for animals to come into and evolve, is different from preservation – where the goal is to keep everything the same. He discussed the importance of habitat and that some creatures suffer or disappear naturally versus those that suffer or disappear because of more human influence.

Chair Theis said that outdoor cats and urbanization are another issue, particularly for ground-nesting birds. Coyotes in this area help to keep the number of outdoor cats in check.

**7). Report from Leigh Davis on the speaker's status for the Wetland talk.**

Chair Theis said that there will be an information session on February 16, 2023, beginning at 7 pm in the Community Building to explain to community members the value of the four warrant articles that the Conservation Commission recommends be put on the ballot.

Ms. Davis said that she had contacted Mr. Emmanuel Uwizeye at NH DES, who will attend the February information session. He spoke to Ms. Davis about how important it is for the NH DES employees to educate community members on the importance of wetlands. Mr. Uwizeye had asked what other topics the Enfield Conservation Commission may wish to add to the presentation.

Vice-Chair Green suggested that the information session is on Microsoft Teams for community members who cannot attend in person. Ms. Banker said that the Community Building is difficult for Teams upstairs due to the acoustics. Ms. Davis said that the session would be downstairs.

Ms. Davis said that Mr. Uwizeye would also plan to bring handouts and posters for his discussions.

Ms. Davis said that it is essential that the Conservation Commission educate community members on the session and the importance of conservation. She suggested road signs (like political signs and the ones that the Master Plan Task Force used) to help get the word out. Chair Theis asked Ms. Davis to come up with wording for the signs and to find the cost for Chair Theis to charge to the Conservation budget. Ms. Davis asked all members to consider language for the signs and let her know. Chair Theis suggested they use a local company, and he suggested Alan's Signs in Lebanon, NH.

Ms. Davis also suggested a door prize raffle for those who attend the meeting.

Chair Theis asked Ms. Davis to devise a plan for these ideas to garner interest. Ms. Davis will research and come to the next meeting with her plan.

Ms. Davis asked for suggested topics for Mr. Uwizeye to cover. Mr. Smith suggested Wetlands and Shoreland Protection. Chair Theis asked Ms. Davis to ensure Mr. Uwizeye discussed why wetlands are essential to water quality. Ms. Davis also suggested cookies and coffee for the event.

Chair Theis said that the commission would need to arrange another public meeting to discuss the warrant articles.

Vice-Chair Green suggested they consider the Enfield Shaker Museum space as an alternative for the February information session. Members agreed this was a good idea. Chair Theis will contact them to see if they have space available for this day.

*(continued)*

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Davis asked members if they agreed that she put together a thank-you letter to the Shaker Museum for the use of their space during Old Home Days for speaker Cat Buxton's presentation. Ms. Davis will write the draft and send it to Chair Theis to print on Conservation Commission letterhead.

**VII. NEXT MEETING:** January 5, 2023**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

*Mr. Smith MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.  
Seconded by Ms. Davis*

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Leah Davis, Shirley Green (Vice-Chair), Doug Smith, Jerold Theis (Chair) all voting Yea.  
None voted Nay.  
None Abstained.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Whitney Banker  
Recording Secretary