

Enfield Conservation Commission – Meeting Minutes
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/MICROSOFT
TEAMS PLATFORM
October 5, 2023

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Leigh Davis, Shirley Green
(Vice-Chair), Edward Rippe, Jerold Theis (Chair)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Kate Plumley Stewart
(Selectboard Representative), Carol Wyman, John Welenc

STAFF PRESENT: Whitney Banker-Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Craig Sanborn (Trail Master), Kurt Gotthardt, Charles Depuy

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chair Theis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and took attendance.

New Member: Edward Rippe

II. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES: September 7, 2023 & September 14, 2023

A. September 7, 2023

Ms. Green MOVED to approve the September 7, 2023, Minutes presented in the October 5, 2023 agenda packet as amended.

Seconded by Ms. Davis

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

Amendments:

Line 52 – Ms. Green and Lake Smart

Line 114 – clarify donation discussion (Ms. Green did not suggest donation but introduced the campaign for discussion.)

B. September 14, 2023

Ms. Green MOVED to approve the September 14, 2023, Minutes presented in the October 5, 2023 agenda packet as presented.

Seconded by Ms. Davis

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

III. OLD BUSINESS**A. August 15, 2023 – Incomplete Wetland Permit by notification, Tax Map 11, Lot 43**

Chair Theis said the owner failed to complete the application within the set timeframe, so DES denied the permit.

B. August 17, 2023 – Forestry Statutory Permit by notification, Tax Map 5, Lot 2

This property has been cut already. The Conservation Commission has minimal involvement with these permits.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:**A. September 6, 2023 – Received Standard Dredge and Fill Wetland Permit Application, Tax Map 27, Lot 2**

This property is along Shaker Boulevard.

The complete packet of information for this application was not attached. Mr. Rippe said that he went to the town office to review the application, and it appears that someone is looking to put a dock in.

B. September 6, 2023 – Denied Wetland Permit by notification, Tax Map 11, Lot 43

This relates to the incomplete wetland permit application discussed above.

C. September 12, 2023 – Received Shoreland Permit Application, Tax Map 24, Lot 2

The property owner plans to build a home on the lot. Chair Theis said the lot is long and narrow, so the property owner must work with the Planning Board to determine any zoning setback intrusions with their plan.

Chair Theis asked if members felt any need to bring attention to potential problems with the lot. There were none.

V. CORRESPONDENCE:**A. July 31, 2023 – Mascoma Bank, Conservation Commission Trust Account balance \$16,752.35****B. Canaan Conservation Commission:**

Chair Theis received correspondence from Mr. Chabot, Chair of the Canaan Conservation Commission, to invite members to a talk on November 14 at 6:30 PM at the Mascoma Community Health Center (also available by Zoom). Andrew French will give the talk to review his activities and experiences with conservation efforts in Massachusetts.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:**A. Farmer's Market update – Leigh Davis**

Ms. Davis shared that their attendance at the Enfield Market was very well received. They included QR codes that could be accessed for several areas of interest, including trail maintenance volunteer forms.

Mr. Welenc included maps of the wildlife corridors, which gathered a lot of interest.

One community member shared her high schooler's art class interest in community involvement. Ms. Davis suggested that being involved in establishing rain gardens would be beneficial. Ms. Davis will follow up with this community member about this possible project.

Mr. Sanborn said that in terms of volunteering, volunteers must register through the town office to sign up. Ms. Davis clarified that the QR code shared during the market linked to the sign-up form.

B. Trail Master Update – Craig Sanborn

Mr. Sanborn recently purchased materials for identified trail updates and stored them in the Department of Public Works shed identified for storage. Mr. Sanborn worked this past week with several volunteers to bring the materials to the first site needing bridges. Volunteers worked together for about 2 hours and built three bridges.

Volunteers also evaluated additional materials available at the site. They considered whether to move an older pressure-treated bridge to a second location or build a new bridge at the second location. Volunteers agreed the best course of action would be to build a new bridge to fit the site. The new bridge build would require additional hemlock planks. The benefit of using hemlock is that it is rot-resistant, and once it does begin to rot, materials can be discarded in the woods. They also decided to dismantle the existing pressure-treated bridge to reuse materials elsewhere.

Mr. Sanborn said that the additional timber required for the bridge build would cost \$120.

***Ms. Green MOVED to approve purchasing additional lumber for \$120 for this project.
Seconded by Mr. Rippe***

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

Chair Theis asked if Mr. Sanborn could provide an invoice. Mr. Sanborn said he had spoken with the town office, who agreed he could write the initial check to Wright's for the material, and the town would then reimburse Mr. Sanborn. Chair Theis agreed

Mr. Sanborn reported that the storage provided at the DPW is satisfactory, and they have a crew of volunteers who are enthusiastic as well.

Mr. Gotthardt asked what width the bridges would be. Mr. Sanborn said they would be 3x8" each, a total of 16" (the usual width of a 'bog bridge'). Mr. Gotthardt asked if they would be usable with snowshoes. Mr. Sanborn said the bridges would need to be wider. However, this would increase the cost. Mr. Sanborn said that handrails could be added on one side for improved balance and would be a minimal expense. Ms. Davis said that when she snowshoes in these circumstances, she removes her shoes to cross and then puts them back on to continue. Chair Theis said he would consult the town's safety officer regarding the need for handrails.

Mr. Gotthardt asked if the Trail Master would work with any Class VI roads. Mr. Sanborn said he was unaware of any Class VI roads that included trails. Chair Theis said he knew of one that is rarely used off Methodist Hill Road.

C. Public Comment

Mr. Gotthardt asked if members would be interested in commenting on the Methodist Hill Property Use Committee (a fact-gathering committee). There was a meeting earlier this week, which Recreation or Conservation did not attend; however, they were listed on the agenda. Members said they did not receive any invitation to speak at the meeting. Mr. Gotthardt directed Chair Theis to contact the committee's chair, Ms. Susan Brown.

Mr. Gotthardt asked for an update on the status of a potential donation to the Enfield Shaker Museum. Chair Theis said that town counsel had said the commission could not donate at this time as there was no indication that the land would be used for conservation.

Mr. Depuy said that he had lived on Mascoma Lake and watched species decrease. The summer has been challenging, particularly this year, with cyanobacteria and many advisories. He said the NH Department of Environmental Science (DES) awarded the lake \$100k to draft a watershed protection plan. He asked if the commission knew about this and if they were part of the process. Ms. Green said that the Town Manager spoke to her about this, and she would like to represent the commission on the committee that will be established. The committee will include members from both Enfield and Lebanon. Mr. Depuy said that it was presented to the Mascoma Lake Association as Mascoma Lake specifically (there was some discussion about the Mascoma Lake versus "Mascoma Watershed" – the watershed would include a much larger area). Ms. Green said she believed there would be people on the committee from other towns along the watershed that connect to the lake.

Mr. Depuy said that three large developments concern him. One is the property near the Shaker Museum, where two large homes are being built with a stream running by them. The NH Fish & Game has produced three clear cuts on Shaker Mountain, which he believed would affect the

lake's runoff. The Dartmouth Sailing facility is doing construction and blasting at their location along the lake. Ms. Banker clarified that Dartmouth attended the July 26, 2023, Planning Board meeting for a Minor Site Plan review. At that meeting, they said that NH DES had approved their shoreland permit application as of July 13, 2023, with the town having a copy on file. There was additional discussion about the lake runoff issues, including fertilizers that lead to cyanobacteria, inadequate septic systems, and redirection of water.

D. Resignation of Dr. Jerold Theis from the Enfield Conservation Commission effective December 31, 2023

Chair Theis explained that he plans to resign at the end of the year and will work with the commission to determine what they plan to do once he is no longer part of the commission. Chair Theis will not participate in deciding how the commission will proceed.

E. Eastman Charitable Foundation Annual Fall Forum

Ms. Green shared that the Eastman Charitable Foundation's annual fall forum will be held October 17, 2023, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Grantham Town Hall (300 Rt 10S, Grantham NH). Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

As part of this forum, game camera images can be emailed to treasurer@ecfnh.org by October 10. Photos will be included in a slideshow before the talk about wildlife habitats and seasonal breeding season.

VII. NEXT MEETING: November 2, 2023

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Davis MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Rippe

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