

**Enfield Conservation Commission – Meeting Minutes**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/MICROSOFT**  
**TEAMS PLATFORM**  
**October 6, 2022**

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

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chair Theis called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**II. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES: September 1, 2022, & September 4, 2022**

**A. September 1, 2022**

*Vice-Chair Green MOVED* to approve the September 1, 2022, Minutes presented in the  
October 6, 2022, agenda packet as presented.

*Seconded by Mr. Smith*

Amendments: N/A

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**None voted Nay.**

**None Abstained.**

*\* The Vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0).*

**B. September 4, 2022**

*Ms. Davis MOVED* to approve the September 4, 2022, Minutes presented in the October 6,  
2022, agenda packet as presented.

*Seconded by Vice-Chair Green*

Amendments: N/A

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**None voted Nay.**

**None Abstained.**

*\* The Vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0).*

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. September payment to Recording Secretary**

Chair Theis said that he had approved the payment to Ms. Banker for the September meeting for \$49.50. Ms. Banker confirmed she had received this.

Chair Theis said approval by Town Manager Morris is needed for items from the town budget. The Conservation Commission trust fund does not require this.

**B. Budget Balance as of September 2022**

Chair Theis said that 28.63% of the budget remains. There is 100% of the professional development budget available, which can be moved to cover the \$250 deficit in the supply budget.

Chair Theis said that he asked for the same budget for 2023 that the commission had for 2022. All members agreed they approved of this.

Chair Theis said there is \$16,000 in the trust fund that can be used if something comes up that the commission needs.

**C. August 31,2022 incomplete forestry statutory permit by notification (RSA 482-A) For tax map 13, lot 35**

Chair Theis said that DES is aware and working on cases like this that are incomplete.

**D. Sept 1,2022 Expedited Minimum Impact Wetland Permit Application for Tax Map 047 lot 001-001**

Chair Theis said he sent a notice to DES having reviewed the plans that the property owner submitted stating that the Conservation Commission had no concerns regarding the wetlands. Somehow that did not arrive to DES, so this was the incomplete item. Chair Theis said he sent another email to DES stating that they had sent a letter, however he then found out there is a section on the application for the Conservation Commission to sign. He received this later and signed it and gave to Assistant Town Manager Bonnette to submit. Chair Theis said he also

82 contacted the property owner to explain the mix up, and the property owner had no issues with  
83 the delay.

84  
85 **E. Sept 1, 2022, Wetland Bureau file # 2022-01659 Tax Map 17, Lot 24. 65 French Road.**

86 Chair Theis said that this was a Wetland Bureau request. The first notice from DES to the  
87 applicant was a reminder that they had not received a response to the request for more  
88 information from July 7, 2022. The response due date was September 4, 2022. There was also an  
89 earlier letter from December 8, 2021.

90  
91 **F. Sept 1, 2022, Request for more information Town of Enfield Tax Map 9 lot # ROW**

92 Chair Theis said that DES asked for the town to submit further information regarding the bridge  
93 from the original permit. The town is putting in a bridge instead of replacing the existing culvert.

94  
95 Chair Theis said he asked Mr. Jim Taylor (Public Works Director) if the bridge would still  
96 require sanding. Mr. Taylor confirmed that the bridge would frost, and sanding would be needed.

97  
98 Chair Theis said if magnesium chloride was used instead of sodium chloride it would be better  
99 for certain trees, etc. He said that he had asked Mr. Taylor about using sand versus salt. Mr.  
100 Taylor said the two are mixed at the Department of Public Works before being applied to roads.

101  
102 Chair Theis said the Conservation Commission should bring the magnesium chloride item to the  
103 town as an issue for consideration. Vice-Chair Green said there are many roads around the state  
104 with low-salt areas close to lakes. Chair Theis asked Vice-Chair Green if she would gather data  
105 about this to go to a proposal for the Department of Public Works. He asked Mr. Welenc to  
106 gather quantitative data to show the sodium chloride impacts on trees along interstate roads. He  
107 said he would like to suggest the possibility of alternate chemicals and the jurisdiction of how  
108 close to the lakes salting goes on. Chair Theis said he has some tests to see the extent of  
109 salination in lakes. He plans to use them in Crystal Lake to test. Salination affects various  
110 organisms, and some cannot survive with high salination.

111  
112 Mr. Smith asked if Mr. Taylor said salt was applied to dirt roads as well, he lives on Oak Hill  
113 and has never seen melting from salt on the road. Chair Theis said he had asked about a year ago  
114 and was told the same sand/salt mix is used for dirt and asphalt. He said he would check with  
115 Mr. Taylor again.

116  
117 Ms. Davis said that she felt the Commission should ask Mr. Taylor if he could provide data on  
118 the safety of the sand/salt mix for the environment. Chair Theis said Mr. Taylor is acting on the  
119 safety of vehicular travel, likely following regulations provided by the state.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:****A. Sept 12, 2022, Administratively Incomplete Standard Dredge and Fill Wetland Permit Tax Map 17, Lot 24-01. Letter from CC regarding wetland and riparian woodland Protection sent Sept 19, 2022.**

Chair Theis said this application was administratively incomplete. He wrote a letter to DES to consider the following and included relevant maps from the Natural Resources Inventory:

- Septic system and potential pump outage for effluent being pumped uphill to the leach field if electricity is lost for several days.
- Property is within the NH Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat (it surrounds the property on two sides). Keep vegetation intact other than narrow access to the seasonal dock.
- Property is noted as having potential wildlife corridors.
- Property is within the Indian River watershed.

Chair Theis said the application came on September 12, and he is given only 14 days to comment. He sent his letter on September 19 but did not have a chance to speak with commission members. Chair Theis asked for comments from members. Mr. Smith said he grew up at this area and the property in question is not a large wildlife corridor, it is further up the hill. He said growing up he never observed large amounts of wildlife going through that property. Chair Theis said this was helpful, as the Enfield Wildlife Corridor maps are only estimations.

Chair Theis said one thing the Conservation Commission could do is ask community members to put out game cameras to assess wildlife movement and address if wildlife crossing signs are in appropriate locations, or if more are needed. He said this is a project he wants to start. There are 8 signs that the commission had proposed for public safety, but the Selectboard voted that they were not necessary. Chair Theis said that he felt these signs were important to warn the public of potential hazards on the roads.

Vice-Chair Green said that there was a discussion at Monday's meeting regarding the issue of having too many signs. Chair Theis said the Enfield Police Department had made this same comment, however, he felt it was important to warn the public. Drivers may choose to ignore the signs, but they should still be there he felt. Chair Theis said he would like to discuss with a lawyer if the town could be considered negligent for not having signs, as he feels they are important for public safety. He said it is the job of the Conservation Commission to show wildlife use these areas at a high rate which can impact vehicular traffic.

There was some discussion of locations in town where there are a high number of wildlife crossings that signs don't currently exist. Chair Theis said these would be good locations for potential game cameras.

**B. Sept 13, 2022 Shoreland Permit Application (RSA 483-B) Tax Map 17, Lot 24-01**

Chair Theis said that there are so many Shoreland Permits as the state is waiting until the water level is lowered.

Chair Theis said this is a project for a single-family residence, an accessory unit, a treehouse, an access drive, and miscellaneous improvements on patios, etc. The proposed construction will result in 6826 square feet of permanent disturbance, and 13,866 square feet of temporary disturbance of the shoreland.

Chair Theis said the area they are proposing to develop is the larger section down near the water. Vice-Chair Green said the lot must be vacant, and Chair Theis said it was.

Chair Theis offered to pass around materials from the applications for this property if they would be helpful to members. Mr. Welenc asked if there was anything Chair Theis felt members needed to weigh in on, or if it was all in the hands of DES. Chair Theis said it was quite a large package, and most was in the hands of DES.

Chair Theis reviewed the maps of the project provided by Pathways Consulting, LLC, and passed them around for members to review.

Mr. Smith said that he had grown up a few lots down, on lot 2. He said he felt that the 24-1 lot would be quite steep to the lake and did not believe there would be much wetland. Mr. Welenc said that the concern would be protecting runoff in this case. Vice-Chair Green asked how close the property owner plans to build. Chair Theis said the town has only a 50' setback. Chair Theis said from the map provided by Pathways it appears that the property owner would like to build as close as they can. Chair Theis said that sometimes the steep banks from the water are sufficient to cover the 50' setback. Mr. Smith said that he felt the proposed waste system was very far from the lake. He said he would be very comfortable with the build as drawn based on his knowledge of the area.

**C. Sept 16, 2022, Wetland, and non-site-specific permit 2022-01562. Tax Map 21, lot 48, 12 Melendy Lane.**

Chair Theis said this is for an additional home and underground electricity. The DES issued wetland and non-site-specific permits in this case.

Chair Theis said he spoke with the contractor about this, and the property owner plans to build an addition to have more room for his family to come here. Vice-Chair Green asked how close the existing home is to the lake and Chair Theis said he believed it was about 100', and the new section would be about 51' for a setback. Chair Theis said they also plan to have plumbing added to a storage shed on the property, and the pipes would have to go through part of the wetland. He

said the wetland is sloped away from their property, and no other homes near the wetland would be affected. Chair Theis said this did not seem like a major interference.

**D. Sept 16, 2022, Shoreland Permit Application Tax Map 44 Lot 12-13. 193 Crystal Lake Rd.**

Chair Theis said he was only sent a copy of the notification to the property owners. There was no more detail about what they were applying for.

**E. Sept 19, 2022, Forestry Statutory Permit – by-notification (RSA 482-A) Tax Map 13, Lot, 35 Grafton Pond Land Trust.**

Chair Theis said this was an approval as the property owner had supplied the information that DES needed.

**F. Sept 23, 2022, Shoreland Impact Permit 2022- 01614 Tax Map 21 Lot 48. On 12 Melendy Lane Enfield.**

Chair Theis said this was for the same property previously discussed. The DES sent a series of items that must be adhered to. He said there are no concerns for the commission.

**G. Surplus Property Report from Town. Reply from CC recommending the 100 acres, Tax Map 02, Lot 29 be retained by the Town for reasons stated in reply.**

Chair Theis said that he wrote to the town suggesting they retain this property. The land is listed by the state of NH as undesirable for homesites due to the expense of construction. He read from the letter that this property offers a large habitat for wildlife and allows them to move without having to cross major roadways.

**H. Mailing of Enfield Conservation Commission Plan for Preservation of Habitat Sufficient**

**To Support Wildlife, Water Quality, and Recreation in Enfield plus URL for land preservation Methods to 110 households with such property.**

Chair Theis circulated a URL he plans to add to these packets that shares how to go about preserving land if the property owners wish to.

Mr. Welenc said that he had several he could not find addresses for. Ms. Banker used the GIS map to look up property cards for addresses. Ms. Davis had one address to check.

**I. Consideration of Warrant Articles to be presented for vote at March 2023 Town meeting  
Deadline for submission to BOS for their approval: December 2022.  
Deadline for submission by Petition Feb 7, 2023**

Chair Theis shared warrant articles that he feels would be important to put forward for the next town meeting.

1. A portion of the current-use tax that the town gets when a property is taken out of current use goes to the Conservation Commission trust. Chair Theis said he would contact Grafton and Canaan Conservation Commissions as he believes they have this in place already.
2. Ask for the Conservation Commission's permission to put up wildlife crossing signs in areas identified as a public risk.
3. Return money to the budget. (Ms. Davis suggested this. Chair Theis said he had previously spoken with Ms. Crandall and thought it only needed to be requested, but not voted on. Vice-Chair Green said the Old Home Days committee did this to have the money go into their fund automatically, but she did not believe it had to be done every year, it may have gone to the Selectboard. Vice-Chair Green will check).
4. Re-establish the 100' or 150' setback from all prime wetlands.

Ms. Davis will write up the four articles and bring them to the next meeting for review and edits.

Chair Theis said that December is the deadline to submit the warrant articles to the Board of Selectmen. He asked members to consider to what extent they feel the Selectboard would support their proposed articles. Vice-Chair Green said she felt the articles should go to the Selectboard first, and if they don't the commission could then go through the petition process.

## **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. Mascoma Watershed Committee**

Chair Theis attended this committee meeting Monday, October 3. They are interested in developing canoe/kayak/rafting areas in Lebanon. There are no areas in Enfield with white water on Mascoma Lake for this. Chair Theis said that according to the member who lives in Enfield, there are different rapids used for canoes versus kayaks. He said the white-water districts are labeled from 5 (most dangerous) to 1 (least dangerous). Levels 2 and 3 are what most people use. These levels only exist in Lebanon.

### **B. DES notification of Drawdown of Lakes and Ponds in Enfield: Crystal Oct 10, Mascoma Oct 10,**

Chair Theis said both lakes are due to be drawn down on October 10.

### **C. NH Lakeside Quarterly publication Fall 2022.**

Chair Theis passed around the publication. He said this concerns the preservation and quality of the lakes, controlling invasive species like milfoil, etc.

Chair Theis said he has been working with Mr. Glyn Green to collect samples for data.



**VI. OTHER BUSINESS****A. Old Home Days Presentation and Future Presentations:**

Ms. Davis shared that after Ms. Cat Buxton's presentation during Old Home Days there were questionnaires available to attendees. Community members were interested in more talks like this and included specific topics.

Ms. Davis will provide copies of the slides and suggested topics to commission members.

Ms. Davis said that she believes speakers from DES can be booked for no charge. Vice-Chair Green said speakers can also come from NH Lakes for free. Chair Theis thanked Ms. Davis for putting out a questionnaire and gathering this data

**B. October 14: The State of New Hampshire Birds.** Vice-Chair Green reminded members that October 14 has a presentation on NH Birds. She said that she got many responses from community members after sending out a Save the Date on the Listserv:

*The Eastman Charitable Foundation Trustees invite everyone to attend a "hybrid" Fall Forum on Friday, October 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm. Our speaker will be Dr. Pamela Hunt, Senior Avian Biologist from the NH Audubon Society. Dr. Hunt will present "The State of New Hampshire Birds" and will answer your questions about which birds are doing well, which ones are not....and what we can do to help.*

*To attend in person - The doors of the Grantham Town Hall lower meeting room will open at 6:30 pm. Please do not register in advance.*

*To attend remotely - please register at [www.ecfnh.org](http://www.ecfnh.org). A link for online access will be sent to you a day or two before the Forum.*

*Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 12 at 11:59 pm.*

*This event is FREE....but donations to ECF are always gratefully accepted. (Please note: ECF does not have permission to record this presentation).*

**C. Future Talks for Younger Generations:**

Mr. Welenc will write up a list of topics of interest for the Conservation Commission to present to children in the community (elementary, middle, and high schools). Mr. Smith agreed this would be important. Mr. Smith also said that the Enfield Outing Club promotes outdoor activities, he will suggest at their next meeting that they may be a good

**VII. NEXT MEETING:** November 3, 2022

*(continued on next page)*



**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

***Mr. Smith MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.***

***Seconded by Vice-Chair Green***

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**None voted Nay.**

**None Abstained.**

***\* The Vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0).***

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Banker

Recording Secretary