



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Town of Greenland • Greenland, NH 03840**  
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**MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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Wednesday, June 13, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

*Members Present:* Laura Byergo, Chip Hussey, Sarah Rowe

*Members Absent:* Bill Bilodeau

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Chair Byergo opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; she announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Presentation: New Greenland Maps - Lisa Graichen, UNH Climate Adaptation Program Coordinator

Lisa Graichen, UNH Climate Adaptation Program Coordinator, and Amanda Stone, UNH Extension, addressed the Conservation Commission to discuss the new Greenland maps they have created that show various land impacts useful for planning land conservation. The Nature Conservancy completed a supplement to the Coastal Conservation Plan focusing on water resources. They wanted to update the land conservation plan; however, within the coastal watershed there are many water resource issues including water supply, water quality, and high levels of development in towns around the Bay and on the coast. Considering also the prospective impacts from rising sea levels and more intense precipitation, they overlaid the various impacts on the maps to highlight those lands that are most important for reducing risks and providing eco-service benefits to communities. The maps provide information to help towns make informed decisions on which lands should be given a high priority for conservation protection.

An abbreviated report (with the appendices) and flyers were distributed to members and explained by A. Stone. Protecting natural areas is the most significant way to remediate some of the effects. Salt marshes are a good first defense against storm surge, sea level rise and flooding. Protecting the upland areas adjacent to the salt marshes is important. It's also important to identify the ground water areas and how much can be protected.

Their role is to bring the information to the Commission. Maps were reviewed to identify conservation priorities. C. Hussey asked about the data sources used to make the maps and was the topography considered, especially along the Winnicut River. A. Stone said that information was in the appendices of the report and they could provide us with a copy of the full report. This was an introductory overview; their hope was that the Commission might be interested in pursuing this and develop an action plan. Information from the sea rise level plan and Master Plan chapter on Climate Adaptation has been linked with maps from the Nature Conservancy. Also incorporated into the maps was information from the Bay project.

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They are funded by the coastal program and are working together with the Nature Conservancy. They will be working on the project through March 2019. A culvert report done by the Nature Conservancy in 2006 or 2009 was discussed. Not addressed in the current project, it can be connected.

L. Graichen reviewed the brochure with the Commission. Greenland has 21.6% of its land in conservation. The information being reviewed could help prioritize any future land protection efforts. It was suggested that the Natural Resources Inventory could be updated when the maps were done. A. Stone explained the maps. At some point in the future, they will be going to the Planning Board to work with them on buffers. The maps and report will be left in the Town Hall. They can work with the Nature Conservancy to “tweak” the maps to add names on the lands already protected.

It was suggested that the Conservation Commission hold a special meeting for further discussion of the land conservation plan. At that point they will bring the full report and the adjusted maps. A. Stone noted the NRI was very outdated and suggested it be updated soon.

### 2. Project Permitting Plans: Eversource

Chris Wilkes, VHB Environmental Project Manager and hired by Eversource, addressed the Commission. Maps were distributed. They are working on four different maintenance and repair projects throughout the State. Eversource routinely inspects their lines; they have been prioritizing overhead transmission lines for inspections. During these inspections, they have identified high tension electric lines that need replacement; some structures were installed in the 1950's and 1960's. Some of the infrastructure is outdated and/or damaged. In Greenland, the only applicable area is Packer Brook.

Proposed access runs parallel to Maloney Field; there is a gate in the corner of the field allowing access to the right of way. There are several lines and structures that will be replaced. C. Wilkes explained that the work pad is a temporary staging area for equipment while work is being done on a pole. No gravel will be put down and grading won't be done. Timber mats (wooden boardwalk) will be used while working in the wetlands allowing the weight of the equipment to be distributed equally. Under the mats, the vegetation will still be fairly intact; there is no disturbance of the ground.

C. Wilkes anticipated it would be years before they had to return to do replacement work. Weathered steel poles will be installed, not wooden. A Conditional Use Permit will be needed for temporary impact to the wetlands. That will be submitted on June 27, 2018 for the public hearing on July 19, 2018. There are approximately 184,000 sq. ft. of temporary wetland impact. They are planning to start the work in September and should be complete within a couple months. C. Wilkes noted that five towns will be done and he was unsure where they would start.

The contractor will be following Eversource best practice guidelines. Oversight for environmental compliance and DES regulations will be done by VHB. A wetlands permit application has been submitted to DES. They have coordinated with the Natural Heritage Bureau and Fish and Game. They will also check for wildlife in the area on a daily basis; crews are trained before work is started. Erosion controls will be in place.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to waive the Conservation Commission's right to intervene per RSA 482-A:11. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

3. Interview: Summer Intern Applicant

Josh Churchill applied for the Summer Intern position for the Conservation Commission. The Town Administrator had met previously with J. Churchill. A brief background was given by J. Churchill. He is currently attending UNH, studying forestry and wildlife management. Chair Byergo explained her expectations to J. Churchill. C. Hussey added that his primary job would be monitoring conservation areas. The Board of Selectmen stated at their meeting on Monday, June 11, 2018, that the Conservation Commission may hire the summer intern. Funds will be from the Conservation Commission's warrant article.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to hire Joshua Churchill-Broadway as the Conservation Commission summer intern for 120 hours. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Hiring is subject to the results of the background check. J. Churchill will be out of town for 12 days, beginning Friday, June 15, 2018.

4. Trail Plan for BOS Approval

The Conservation Commission reviewed the trail plan that will be presented to the Board of Selectmen. C. Hussey recommended that several estimates be available to the Selectmen for the bog bridges. Chair Byergo responded that she would like their preliminary approval; the current trail will need a short boardwalk and small bridge. A price will also be needed for the brontosaurus. C. Hussey suggested that Jim Jones, snow plow contractor for the Town, be contacted.

5. Spring Project Results: Labeling Storm Drains

S. Rowe stated that a couple storm drains weren't done on her section and she planned to complete them soon. One was located by the Church and there was a lot of traffic due to the Transfer Station being open; the other was located on Tuttle Lane. C. Hussey recommended that the Property Maintenance Supervisor help with the Tuttle Lane storm drain because of traffic. S. Rowe added that the Boy Scouts were very enthusiastic, but some of the labeling is blurred. She will fix those as well. Between 30 and 40 drains were labeled. Residents were very receptive.

6. Update: Van Etten Open Space

Chair Byergo reported that autumn olive was torn out or cut down in the main part of the open space. Crab apple and spruce seedlings were also planted. C. Hussey suggested burning the brush piles rather than removing them. Chair Byergo wasn't sure she wanted to burn in that area, and it may be better to take it to the dump.

7. Database: Town Conservation Land, Field Notes App

This item was continued to a future meeting.

8. Update: Willowbrook Avenue Culvert

Chair Byergo reported that the Selectmen have decided to use a 4' replacement culvert rather than a box culvert as recommended by the Conservation Commission. They will not be waiting for the grant that was applied for in May. The 319 Grant would also entail waiting. C. Hussey agreed there was no

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interest in waiting. He continued that there was poor communication between the Boards, Commissions, Committees and employees in the Town. Chair Byergo added it would have been nice to know about the proposed culvert replacement earlier because it is on an important wetland.

### 9. Approval of Receipts

Chair Byergo presented receipts for payment: \$190 – crab apple and spruce seedlings; \$119.94 – stencils for the Bay; \$47.52 – spray paint for storm drain labeling; \$73.49 – pizza for Boy Scouts.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved that payment be made to Laura Byergo in the amount of \$430.95, with the understanding that partial reimbursement may be made through the Town Administrator's budget. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

### 10. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, May 09, 2018. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, April 11, 2018. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

### 11. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

### 12. Adjournment

**MOTION:** C. Hussey moved to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Second – S. Rowe; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING
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Wednesday, July 11, 2018 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: