



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

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Wednesday, October 09, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

*Members Present:* Bill Bilodeau, Laura Byergo, Joe Fedora, Chip Hussey, Joe Russell

*Members Absent:* Bill Bilodeau, Rich Collins

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Chair Byergo opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:03 p.m. A roll call was taken by the Chair; she announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Thompson Brook Trail Update

Matt Reuss is planning to do a car wash and Dunkin' Donuts fundraiser; he may ask the Conservation Commission for their support. He will also approach the Greenland Woman's Club for their support. M. Reuss anticipates doing the remainder of the work on the trail bog bridges before the end of November.

2. Other Business

Chair Byergo has asked Fish & Game to walk the trail with the Conservation Commission to identify the hunter safety zone. They are available; however, have not confirmed a date.

B. Bilodeau will help Chair Byergo pick up straw that will be used to cover the wildflower seeds in the regraded and donated areas. Chair Byergo asked for volunteers to lay straw and spread out wildflower seeds; J. Fedora and Joe Russell offered to help.

Chair Byergo noted the annual NH Association of Conservation Commissions Conference will be held in Pembroke on Saturday, November 02, 2019. J. Fedora and Chair Byergo have registered.

Chair Byergo asked J. Fedora for an update regarding the King Tide. J. Fedora will update members at the next meeting; the highest tide of the year will be around October 29, 2019. He will go out when it's a very low tide to check how many holes are above the sign. That will ensure a better baseline for measuring in the future. Chair Byergo gave J. Fedora a list of properties in Town that are vulnerable to storm surge.

C. Hussey, Matt Scruton (Town Administrator), Rick Hussey (Selectman) and Rick Mauer (former Conservation Commission Chairman) went on the second boat tour on Great Bay with the Great Bay and Piscataqua River Waterkeeper. There was a discussion about marking the channel up the Winnicut River.

3. Approval of Invoices

The invoice for the annual membership dues for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions was received.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to approve the annual membership bill for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions in the amount of \$300. Second – J. Russell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

Page 2, second full paragraph, second to last sentence, was amended to read “J. Russell suggested she would need....”, rather than “R. Collins suggested she would need...”.

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, September 11, 2019, as amended. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

5. Agricultural Permit Application – 470 Great Bay Road (Map R16, 2)

Owner/Applicant: Deborah Beck

Project Description: Minimal impact for agricultural purposes: regrade an area for a cattle paddock.

Members discussed the Agricultural Permit application for 470 Great Bay Road that was submitted to DES from Deborah Beck. C. Hussey noted there was no plan and no wetlands stamp as required by DES regulations. The plan submitted with the application did not clearly explain what D. Beck has done and what she had to work with. C. Hussey continued, for the record, complaints have been brought to the Town by abutters that their property was now flooding and it did not before; obviously something has been seriously changed. C. Hussey recommended that DES not approve the plan set D. Beck submitted; the proper engineering and wetland scientist work must be done to correct the problem.

J. Fedora stated that the plan was not specific as to the steps that had been taken requiring retroactive approval, and the additional steps that need to be taken. There was a reference to smoothing out the area and building a paddock. J. Fedora felt it should be specifically spelled out in writing: what has been done and what is proposed so it was on record. When the plan was completed, they could determine if she had taken the necessary steps to be in compliance with the regulations. J. Fedora felt D. Beck needed a better plan than what was submitted; he also questioned if there was retrofitting being done.

C. Hussey noted the permit would be “after the fact” and thought D. Beck may have more work to be done. J. Fedora stated that if D. Beck had received the permit before doing the work, she would have had to clarify exactly what she planned. He felt she was asking for a retroactive permit; members agreed.

J. Russell, referring to the August letter from DES, stated there were four items that needed to be done and three things D. Beck needed to do as far back as 2008. None of the documents submitted addressed that letter. The letter referred to a drainage swale area; the permit indicates she wants to put a cattle paddock in a wetland area. Chair Byergo stated it looked as though D. Beck may have a pre-existing cattle paddock; she may not have been trying to add a new cattle paddock and does not need to show that. J. Russell commented that having a plan would help.

Chair Byergo added it was unclear which direction the water flow would naturally go; it appears the culvert may have had extensions on both sides. D. Beck has dug out below where the culvert starts on

## DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

her side. It appears the hydrology is changing in that area. Chair Byergo noted the culvert crossing by the railroad flows from the northwest to the southeast via D. Beck's property and not the other way. Chair Byergo stated that D. Beck needed to have a wetlands survey. She needs to have a plan as well as the area surveyed. Because her neighbor is complaining, she may also need to have her property line surveyed. On the Town's GIS map, it appears D. Beck is working very close to her property line. Chair Byergo questioned if she was on her property or the neighbors.

C. Hussey was also concerned D. Beck may be draining the property in order to sell the other side. He questioned if she may be attempting to create more uplands to increase the value of her property. Chair Byergo was concerned because the drainage D. Beck was working on didn't seem to be going with the normal flow. There is a stream going across her property, Meloon Creek, and it is not clear how this drainage relates to that stream.

C. Hussey noted she was cleaning out the culvert on State property without State permission. Chair Byergo stated she looked through both ends of the culvert, and it was not blocked. On D. Beck's side it was dug out below the culvert; on the other side Chair Byergo could see extensions were put on both sides. C. Hussey stated if the culvert was the correct elevation, you could look through it; there was a question if the culvert was the right elevation.

C. Hussey stated he was disappointed that the application did not require abutters to be notified. The State of New Hampshire does not consider someone across the road an abutter even though they may be affected. This was a true case of an abutter being affected and they should be able to voice their concerns. Chair Byergo agreed, adding if there was a wetland permit before the Conservation Commission it should be on the agenda when it is posted so potential abutters would be aware of any proposed projects.

Chair Byergo will contact DES to inform them of the Conservation Commission's concerns. C. Hussey recommended sending a letter to Concord; Chair Byergo agreed to draft a letter.

### 6. Adjournment

**MOTION:** C. Hussey moved to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING
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Wednesday, November 13, 2019 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant