



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Town of Greenland • Greenland, NH 03840  
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Website: greenland-nh.com

**MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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Wednesday, May 13, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. – Virtual via Zoom

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

*Members Absent:* Rich Collins, Chip Hussey

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Chair Byergo opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. A roll call was taken; it was announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being held virtually through Zoom and recorded by audio. A checklist to ensure meetings are compliant with the Right-to-Know Law during the State of Emergency was read into the record by Chair Byergo.

Attendance was taken by roll call: B. Bilodeau - aye, L. Byergo - aye, J. Fedora - aye, J. Russell – aye.

1. Summer Intern

Veronica Bodge joined the meeting. V. Bodge was recommended as a summer intern by Professor Matt Tarr, UNH. Chair Byergo and J. Fedora interviewed V. Bodge; she has done research on little brown bats, bobolinks, is comfortable talking to property owners, and is a wildlife and conservation biology undergrad. V. Bodge has been working with a veterinarian who wrote a very nice letter of recommendation. Responding to a question from J. Russell, V. Bodge explained that she did research on private property last year and was able to speak one-on-one with landowners. Chair Byergo will work with V. Bodge for a period of time and explained what type of work she would be doing as well as the schedule. A tracking app will be used while she is working on parcels in Town. The position is very flexible.

Chair Byergo stated the position pays \$15 or \$16 per hour, not exceeding \$1,500, during the summer. It is not an enormous job but is a very useful job. The money is taken from the warrant article; Chair Byergo would like it moved to the Conservation Commission's regular budget.

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to hire Veronica Bodge as the Conservation Commission summer intern for the work as described. Second – B. Bilodeau; roll call vote: B. Bilodeau - aye, L. Byergo - aye, J. Fedora - aye, J. Russell – aye. MOTION CARRIED

2. Donation Offer

Nancy and Peter Brown, Van Etten Drive, have offered to make a donation to the Town in the form of tree service on the mature trees in the open meadow managed by the Conservation Commission at the end of Van Etten Drive. The Brown's would like to ensure the health of the trees, for the wildlife as well as the community, especially the ash tree which may be vulnerable to the emerald ash borer. Chair

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Byergo is interested. N. Brown has sent Chair Byergo a letter and proposal from Bartlett Tree Service (copy on file). Bartlett Tree Service treats a tree on the Brown's property for the emerald ash borer. They provided the Brown's with a proposal for the trees in meadow which included treating for the borer, fertilization of the trees and doing selective pruning. The Brown's are offering to do an "adopt a tree program", contracting with Bartlett Tree Service. If additional borer treatments were needed in the future, they will cover that cost also. N. Brown continued that it was a beautiful meadow, with a lot of wildlife; they would like to encourage the wildlife.

Responding to a question from J. Russell, N. Brown stated the ash borer treatment is done annually. Any treatments that were to be done to the trees would be submitted to the Conservation Commission for approval. Chair Byergo noted that oak trees carry a lot of dead wood and tend to drop the dead wood when ready. It is beneficial to wildlife for shelter and food; she recommended being cautious with the amount of work done on the oak tree. Chair Byergo would like to talk to Bartlett Tree Service before they do any work. N. Brown stated they would be more than happy to have Chair Byergo meet with Bartlett Tree Service. Chair Byergo was very appreciative of the Brown's offer to adopt the trees.

Responding to a question from J. Fedora, N. Brown stated that Bartlett Tree Service would like to do treatments, especially for the ash borer. The Board of Selectmen must also approve the donation from the Brown's.

MOTION: J. Russell moved to recommend the donation offered from the Brown's to the Board of Selectmen. Second – J. Fedora; roll call vote: B. Bilodeau - aye, L. Byergo - aye, J. Fedora - aye, J. Russell – aye. MOTION CARRIED

### 3. Seedling Give Away: Community Outreach Event

Dennis Cote, Emergency Management Director, has granted permission for the Conservation Commission to hold the Seedling Give Away in the Town Hall parking lot on Saturday, May 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Residents must stay in their vehicle; volunteers must wear a face mask. Chair Byergo may also give out any remaining seedlings on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. She recommended planting remaining seedlings along the trail or in Rolston Park. J. Fedora will prepare information on available seedlings.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: B. Bilodeau moved to approve the minutes of February. Second – J. Fedora; roll call vote: B. Bilodeau - aye, L. Byergo - aye, J. Fedora - aye, J. Russell – aye. MOTION CARRIED

### 5. Other Business

Survey: J. Russell updated members on the status of the Conservation Commission survey. The survey focuses on climate change in the community and is ready to go active. He suggested it should be done at the same time as the seedling give away. The consensus of members was that it was very well done. J. Russell will need to finalize the survey before it becomes a live link. Chair Byergo asked that he prepare a letter to be given to residents with the seedlings. She will forward the information so the link will be posted on the Town's Facebook page.

Planning Board Meeting: J. Fedora noted that there will be a Planning Board meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2020, to discuss the proposed development at 177 Winnicut Road. The developer should be

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bringing the project to the Conservation Commission in June. He recommended members be aware of what happens at the Planning Board meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Chair Byergo agreed, adding this would be a complicated application. She is recommending a site walk be done.

Updated Zoning Ordinance: Members will receive a copy of the updated Zoning Ordinance when it is finalized.

Conservation Commission Member: Brad Lajoie has submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting an appointment to the Conservation Commission.

### 6. Adjournment

**MOTION:** B. Bilodeau moved to adjourn. Second – J. Russell; roll call vote: B. Bilodeau - aye, L. Byergo - aye, J. Fedora - aye, J. Russell – aye. MOTION CARRIED

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| NEXT MEETING |
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Wednesday, June 10, 2020 – 7:00 p.m., To Be Announced

Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant