



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

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Wednesday, July 08, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. – Virtual via Zoom

*Members Present:* Laura Byergo, Joe Fedora, Brad Lajoie, Joe Russell

*Members Absent:* Bill Bilodeau, Rich Collins

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Chair Byergo opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:04 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: L. Byergo – aye, J. Fedora - aye, B. Lajoie – aye, J. Russell – aye.

1. Summer Work Update

Chair Byergo updated members that she has been working with Veronica Bodge, summer intern, on the easements. They have looked at the Weeks property, down two sides of Coakley, the meadow (V. Bodge will revisit the meadow), Moulton Avenue, and the two salt marsh areas on Packer Brook owned by the Town. Chair Byergo noted Packer Brook goes across Rt. 33 and is relevant to the new zoning area approved in March 2020. She invited the Conservation Commission to see the area.

Chair Byergo and J. Fedora have met with different people who may mow the open space (the meadow). Two estimates have been received. Both have their own landscaping/mowing companies and have talked to the Van Etten Drive HOA. O'Neill Landscaping was recommended by the HOA; their manager had worked with the company. The other company is Grandscapeers, Matt Sargent is the owner and lives in Greenland; Bill Bilodeau recommended this company. Chair Byergo has walked the area with both companies and felt they were competent to do the job. Quotes:

- Grandscapeers (Matt Sargent): \$637; 7.5 hours @ \$85 per hour
- O'Neill Landscaping: \$1,000

J. Fedora agreed both seemed very capable, were experienced, and had the equipment that was needed. Grandscapeers is local and nearby. Money would be saved by going with Grandscapeers as well as possibly developing an ongoing relationship.

Chair Byergo clarified that the area to be mowed was located off Liberty Lane; there is a much more developed meadow on top of the hill. The Conservation Commission manages the meadow as a wildlife habitat; the remainder of the conservation land is wooded.

## DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to accept Matt Sargent's (Grandscapeers) quotation for the work to be done for the Conservation Commission around the Thompson Brook Trail. Second – B. Lajoie; roll call vote: L. Byergo – yes, J. Fedora – yes, B. Lajoie – yes, J. Russell – yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion: Chair Byergo added that she would try and get the quote a little better, if possible. If he has a significant change, Chair Byergo would come back to the Conservation Commission. There was a discussion about the possibility of some hand work that may need to be done after seeing what is under the plants on the bank.

Easement Monitoring: The salt marsh and Moulton Avenue areas had some dumpage in a stream. In the salt marsh area, there is a stream that has several railroad ties placed across it that are collapsing. They contain creosote and are blocking the flow of the stream; one side is getting muddy and backed up, the other side is still flowing. Chair Byergo stated some work will need to be done to move the ties out of the stream. She will contact Larry Day and update members with additional information. The Moulton Avenue parcel is approximately 4 acres of wetlands. There is no access or reason for access; it is swamp. Chair Byergo stated it is an alder swamp. There is a concrete tank with water in it as you go onto the property, there is no top, and a hose that is partially in the ground. The tank is on top of a stream. She stated there was no reason to try to get it out with a backhoe but it should be removed from the stream. Chair Byergo will send pictures to members. She will also contact Larry Day and invited members to join them.

Trail Map: Chair Byergo showed members the trail map. She would like to enlarge it and post it at the Liberty Hill/Thompson Brook trail head.

### 2. Other Business

Chair Byergo introduced Courtney Johnson and Mike Adams; they may be interested in joining the Conservation Commission. Chair Byergo suggested they attend some of the meetings.

### 3. Minutes

B. Lajoie corrected page 2, the first paragraph: J. Russell should be changed to B. Lajoie. Page 3, Chair Byergo added to "Chair Byergo noted she would like the septic system design included" to now read "Chair Byergo noted she would like the septic system design as presented at the meeting to be included in the record for the Town."

MOTION: J. Russell moved to approve the minutes as amended. Second – B. Lajoie; roll call vote: L. Byergo – yes, J. Fedora – yes, B. Lajoie – yes, J. Russell – yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

### 4. Survey Next Step

J. Russell stated that there have been 78 responses to the survey; only the first 40 can be seen unless they upgrade from the basic plan. The cost to upgrade is between \$300 and \$384 annually. B. Lajoie questioned if there would be any other surveys done by the Conservation Commission to make the cost worthwhile, otherwise it was a steep price. There is no cost for the basic program. Chair Byergo felt 40 responses was not great but 80 was a little better. J. Fedora stated that if there were 150 responses, there would be some incentive to upgrade and pay. He was unsure how much would be gained to pay \$300 to \$400 to see 80 responses. Chair Byergo stated she would have to go the Selectmen to see if the Town would pay or if there was another way; it was not in the Conservation Commission budget. She

## DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

asked J. Russell to do a little more research; she will approach the Selectmen. J. Russell stated there is also a per month fee of \$90 but the survey has already be up about three months.

### 5. Receipts

Chair Byergo had receipts for signs that she will review with members at the August meeting. She also had receipts from V. Bodge in the amount of \$29 for the tracking software used for easement monitoring that includes the property information and owners name as well as downloadable maps.

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to approve the expense for the enhancement of the monitoring facility for V. Bodge. Second – J. Russell; roll call vote: L. Byergo – yes, J. Fedora – yes, B. Lajoie – yes, J. Russell – yes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED

### 6. Other Business

J. Fedora mentioned the First Street non-profit organization that does flood mapping. Their mapping shows how much FEMA has underestimated flooding exposure throughout the country. First Street mapped the country; FEMA focuses on coastal areas. Factoring in other elements, including climate change, First Street determined there are approximately 15 million properties throughout the country that are at immediate risk of flooding; that is 70% (6 million) more than estimated by FEMA. Statewide, New Hampshire has 65,000 properties at risk for substantial flooding.

### 7. Adjournment

Conservation Commission members agreed to adjourn the meeting

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| NEXT MEETING |
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Wednesday, August 12, 2020 – To be Announced

Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant