



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
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Website: [greenland-nh.com](http://greenland-nh.com)

**MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Laura Byergo, Joe Fedora, Lloyd Ziel

Members Absent: Bill Bilodeau, Brad Lajoie

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Chair Byergo opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 7:05 p.m. Attendance was taken and it was announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Wetland Permit: 3 Swan Terrace

L. Byergo stated the wetland permit was basically a replacement for an existing pier off Swan Terrace which is located at the back end of Caswell Drive. There are no conflicts with the Natural Heritage Bureau. The pier is a replacement in kind and is minimum impact. Members reviewed the wetland permit. J. Fedora noted that they were not disturbing any areas other than where the pilings are currently located; they are removing the old pilings and installing new pilings. If work is done from the barge and the barge is not in the marsh, they would not be disturbing anything. The consensus of the members was that there were no problems with the wetland permit.

L. Byergo noted that DES would review the permit. By the Conservation Commission signing the permit, they are telling DES that the Board does not have any problems with the permit. It allows DES to process the permit in an expedited way.

L. Byergo was asked if there were guidelines regarding restrictions. L. Byergo responded there were for wharfs and piers. Not as much detail is required when replacing an existing pier as it would be for a new pier. L. Byergo further explained that often permits are submitted to the Conservation Commission and DES. For a full permit the Conservation Commission usually has between 30 and 40 days to notify DES of any concerns. The permit being reviewed is not a full permit; the response time is shorter. If the Conservation Commission does not sign the permit, they can inform DES of any concerns or questions. DES will take that into consideration as they do their approval process. The Conservation Commission is highlighting items they are aware of from being in Town. DES looks to Conservation Commissions for more information because they are familiar with the property in question.

MOTION: L. Ziel moved to approve and sign the wetland permit for 3 Swan Terrace as submitted. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

L. Byergo signed the wetland permit. J. Fedora noted that each wetland permit that is received is reviewed by the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission tries to help the property owner as well as protect the wetlands. L. Byergo added that the NH Association of Conservation Commissions holds an annual conference. A great deal of training is done at that conference for new

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Conservation Commission members. The Town provides Boards and Commissions with the Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Review Regulations and Subdivision Regulations; those are also available on the Town website. Wetland protection regulations can be found in the Zoning Regulations.

### 2. Budget Issues

L. Byergo discussed the possibility of continuing to ask for increases in the Conservation Commission budget. This year, for the first time in a number of years, L. Byergo requested a budget increase. L. Byergo explained that the Board of Selectmen, at their meeting on Monday, November 08<sup>th</sup>, recommended a flat line budget with a 3% wage increase to the Budget Committee. A flat line budget would mean no increase in line items. L. Byergo explained to the Board of Selectmen that the major request was to move the intern from the warrant article to the budget. It may be difficult to justify to the Budget Committee a 150% increase. L. Byergo explained the budget line items vs. the warrant article. A draft warrant article has also been submitted by L. Byergo. She has presented the Conservation Commission budget to the Board of Selectmen. L. Byergo also spoke to the Selectmen at their meeting on Monday, November 08<sup>th</sup>.

The Budget Committee has asked department heads who submitted a budget to attend a special meeting on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>; L. Byergo will be out of Town. She would like members to attend that Budget Committee meeting to defend the Conservation Commission budget. L. Ziel was concerned about the words 'defend the budget'. L. Byergo responded that budgets were always defended. L. Ziel, in response, asked her if she felt the Conservation Commission was already at a disadvantage. L. Byergo stated that the problem is the Board of Selectmen's recommendation.

L. Ziel and J. Fedora will attend the meeting. L. Byergo reviewed the Conservation Commission budget with L. Ziel and J. Fedora. L. Byergo suggested doing a strategic mailing to the neighborhoods where the wildlife corridor is really important.

J. Fedora stated that in L. Byergo's notes to the Board of Selectmen, she mentioned getting assistance to remove the tank on Town land next to the recreation fields. Some of the work could be done by volunteers. Equipment would be needed to remove the 500-gallon abandoned tank. L. Byergo noted they did not know what was in the tank or if anything was still in the tank. There could also be a leak in the tank. When asked by L. Ziel why it was a Conservation Commission problem, L. Byergo responded that she has told the Town about it for over two years and nothing has been done. She was told by DES there may be minimal funding if the Conservation Commission decided to remove the tank. The tank is located on Town land abutting the recreational fields and open space. It is good land for children as well as an area to develop a trail or do activities. It is both uplands and wetlands on Haines Brook. The tank needs to be removed.

J. Fedora clarified that the warrant article increased from \$10,000 to \$16,000 and was primarily the expense of the natural resources inventory. He asked if the cost would be questioned. He was concerned about defending that increase. L. Byergo responded that she contacted Rockingham Planning Commission about updating the inventory. RPC provided the cost of \$8,000 to \$9,000. J. Fedora asked if they needed a delineation of how the warrant article would be used. L. Byergo reminded members the funding was for three years and was for trail maintenance and natural resource issues over that period of time.

L. Byergo will meet with L. Ziel and J. Fedora before the budget meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, October 13, 2021. Second – L. Ziel; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

4. Other Business

Karen Johnson, 53 Great Bay Road, has been in Town since 1998. She is interested in conservation and natural resources and how the Town does/does not manage them. K. Johnson is interested in the Conservation Commission and being more involved. L. Byergo welcomed K. Johnson; the Conservation Commission likes to have residents attend their meetings.

Barbara Dion, 75 Tuttle Lane, is retired and has lived in Town four years. She is involved with conservation through the Marine Docents. Her property abuts land owned by Robin Hughes and maintained by the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests through a conservation easement. B. Dion noticed there were openings on the Board and meetings were open to the public. She came to the meeting to learn more about the Conservation Commission.

L. Byergo stated that they were entering a period when a lot of development money was available. The important role of the Conservation Commission was to build relations with the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board as respected, trusted interlockers who will stand up to defend the regulations voted for by the Town. The State has regulations; the Town has its own set of regulations. The Conservation Commission's role is to look at the developer's plans and try to help them reframe their plans. The Conservation Commission can also ask for a second opinion (example: wetlands) and that expense would be the developers. The Conservation Commission stands up for the protections the residents voted to approve.

J. Fedora discussed the recent review meeting at the fish ladder led by Steve Smith, Board of Selectmen Chair, and NH State Senator Tom Sherman. The fish ladder was designed incorrectly and does not work. The dry hydrant has never worked. L. Byergo stated that if you start looking at the Town from its natural resource perspectives, it completely changes your view of what is happening in Town. It changes what you look at. L. Ziel added you also find yourself looking at ways for outreach and the importance of outreach. L. Byergo noted that everyone on the Commission brings their own skills and interests.

Larry Day, B. Bilodeau and L. Byergo have completed the boardwalk extension. There is still a wet area near the bridge; a 10-foot extension was added. L. Byergo noted that L. Day was not on the Conservation Commission but does most of the trail maintenance.

Smith Farm: L. Byergo, J. Fedora and L. Ziel attended the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, November 08<sup>th</sup>. L. Byergo felt the meeting went well and there was understated support. Planning Board members wanted firmer numbers from the Southeast Land Trust for their request to the Town, which made sense. The Conservation Commission reviewed the Smith Farm conservation easement proposal for K. Johnson and B. Dion. L. Byergo noted that, to date, all the testing on the groundwater at the Smith Farm has not shown any PFAS.

J. Fedora added that the Southeast Land Trust has received funding from several sources. It may still leave Greenland residents paying approximately \$1.5 million. The Conservation Commission voted to commit \$200,000 from the Conservation Land Capital Reserve Fund. That does not close the gap. There may be a warrant article for the balance if the Board of Selectmen feel it is an amount the residents will

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support. SELT is still looking for additional sources of funding. A decision was not made at the Board of Selectmen meeting on November 08<sup>th</sup> because the Selectmen were looking for firmer numbers from the SELT.

J. Fedora discussed King Tide, explaining that there is a tide marker at the end of Tide Mill Road, past the dance studio, across the railroad tracks and out to the Bay. The Conservation Commission tries to track any extreme high tides to gauge what happens over time for sea level rise and its effects. A question was asked about using a remote measuring device.

L. Ziel suggested adding an extended time (couple of hours) for members to discuss what they would like to do over a period of time. L. Byergo felt that was a great idea for January, stating they had to 'marry their people power to their ideas'. L. Byergo suggested inviting a member of the Board of Selectmen and the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions.

L. Byergo explained to K. Johnson and B. Dion the process for becoming a member of the Conservation Commission.

### 5. Adjournment

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Second – L. Ziel; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING
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Wednesday, December 08, 2021 – 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant