



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
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**MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

Members Present: Laura Byergo, Joe Fedora, Brad Lajoie, Lloyd Ziel

Members Absent: Bill Bilodeau

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Chair Byergo opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 6:35 p.m. Attendance was taken and it was announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Budget Issues

L. Byergo has spoken to the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee about the Conservation Commission proposed budget increase. The budget process is not finished. L. Byergo reviewed the budget request with members and explained the process. L. Byergo reduced the proposed Conservation Commission budget request to focus on the need to move the expense of a summer intern from the warrant article to the annual budget.

Remaining funds in the current warrant article will be encumbered and expended in 2022. L. Byergo explained the warrant article request. She noted some of the things the Conservation Commission could do: updating the Natural Resources Inventory, the ash tree inoculation, trail maintenance, and others. Responding to a question from B. Lajoie, L. Byergo stated the inoculation would be for the ash trees in Rolston Park. L. Byergo stated that a town or city with a plan and a budget could become a Tree City USA, explaining it was a national effort to encourage towns to become involved with re-treeing. L. Byergo suggested that the Urban Forestry Center could be contacted to have them speak to the Conservation Commission. If the Great Bay Farm conservation easement passes, the PDA may be interested in supporting a multi-use trail.

The timeline for decisions by the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen was very briefly discussed. L. Byergo explained that the proposed Conservation Commission warrant article would be three years, starting in 2022 and expiring in December 2024.

2. Development Proposal Updates

On Thursday, December 16, 2021, the Planning Board will be reviewing several development projects. The Conservation Commission has looked at 309 Portsmouth Avenue (Mercedes-Benz) and Tower Place near Packer Bog; they are on the agenda. Plans are on the Town website. L. Byergo encouraged members to look at the plans carefully and attend the Planning Board meeting.

3. Easement Monitoring and Thompson Brook Trail

L. Byergo informed members that the easement monitoring is nearly complete. She will have reports ready after a final review. There were some minor issues that were discovered during monitoring that include deer blinds. L. Byergo will address those issues with the Selectmen.

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from Wednesday, November 10, 2021, was continued to the next meeting.

5. Other Business

L. Byergo noted that there were a couple of homes in the Moulton Avenue area that looked like there was drainage from their house discharging into that area; they put in a pipe similar to a French drain. L. Byergo will speak to the Building Inspector to make sure it was done properly.

J. Fedora noted the Thompson Brook trail sign had been installed with B. Bilodeau's help. Adding the compass rose for NESW was discussed. The consensus was that it would be appropriate to add to the sign.

Conservation Commission Facebook Page: People have been commenting on the Facebook page about things they have seen in the woods. L. Byergo suggested adding educational information to the page. Members discussed suggestions for additions to their Facebook page. L. Byergo suggested adding something to their Facebook page before Deliberative Session, encouraging them to come and support the Conservation Commission warrant article. J. Fedora commented that Facebook helps to capture a demographic that does not appear on the Town website. L. Byergo will send the link for the Natural Resources Inventory to B. Lajoie to post on the Conservation Commission Facebook page.

Members also discussed work force housing and age-restricted housing. L. Byergo noted that to be considered work force housing it needed to be 'x' amount of the average house in that town. J. Fedora added that the Planning Board had discussed a cap on age-restricted housing. L. Ziel questioned if the Conservation Commission could help educate residents on issues like work force housing. L. Byergo will research some of the issues and share it with members. J. Fedora stated it was clear why the Natural Resources Inventory was the Conservation Commission's responsibility. It was up to the Planning Board to have an inventory that was parallel. L. Byergo noted Town demographics are important to everyone. Work force housing is not immediately in the Conservation Commission's bailiwick. However, the more members understand it, the better they can discuss it when residents bring up the issue.

L. Byergo was pleased with the social media aspect of the Conservation Commission. L. Ziel and B. Lajoie will meet to discuss ideas for the Facebook page. L. Ziel stated it was a good idea to have four campaigns a year and suggested several ideas. L. Byergo reminded members that two prizes donated for the scavenger hunt from Eastern Mountain Sports were not used: canoe rental for one week at no charge and a free rental of snowshoes; both expire in a year.

L. Ziel suggested a strategic planning session in January or February 2022 for the year. The budget for the following year could also be discussed. L. Ziel also suggested meeting with the Selectmen or having a Town meeting for residents to voice their concerns and state their interests. L. Byergo read an item from the Rockingham Planning Commission and how they will work cooperatively with the Conservation Commission on various public outreach projects. L. Ziel stated the Conservation Commission should

## DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

discuss past successes and growth. As strategic points of interest, L. Byergo stated there could be discussions on how to best use of the wildlife materials, climate change, and energy use in Town.

L. Byergo noted there was a sea rise chapter added to the Master Plan. Sea rise will affect mainly private land and not much public infrastructure. L. Ziel asked if the Conservation Commission could be an education source for private landowners. L. Byergo stated fundamental jobs of the Conservation Commission are to know the Town's regulations that protect the wetlands and to know the natural resources in Town. She would like to focus on Greenland's wildlife corridors. L. Byergo added that The Nature Conservancy and Southeast Land Trust are membership organizations and have a lot of information relevant to some of L. Ziel's questions. L. Byergo gave L. Ziel additional names of useful organizations.

### 6. Adjournment

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

NEXT MEETING
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Wednesday, January 12, 2022 – 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant