



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Bill Bilodeau, Joe Fedora, Chip Hussey, Brad Lajoie, Lloyd Ziel

Members Absent: Kathleen Babin-Johnson, Laura Byergo

L. Ziel 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 and live-streamed.

1. Around the Table

Members introduced themselves and gave a brief background and what they hoped to accomplish being on the Conservation Commission.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 09, 2022. Second – B. Lajoie; four in favor, one abstained (C. Hussey). MOTION CARRIED

3. Old Business

Intern Search: An update was not available.

Tank in Town Field: B. Bilodeau has spoken to the Town Administrator. C. Hussey thought there may be #2 fuel oil and maybe some motor oil in the tank. C. Hussey stated that once the tank was clean, it could be put in the metal pile. B. Bilodeau and C. Hussey will look for the tank and its contents. They were cautioned by L. Ziel regarding possible costs that may be involved.

Trail Cams: B. Lajoie updated members that there has been an ongoing discussion at the Conservation Commission about setting up trail cams to capture wildlife. He has picked out one for the Pickering Brook area that overlooks a den. Pictures will be uploaded to the Conservation Commission Facebook page. B. Lajoie gave several options for trail cams. He also recommended locking the trail cams to prevent theft, which would be an additional cost. The cost could range from \$150 to \$300, depending on the trail cam. C. Hussey noted that during the cold season, batteries will need to be changed more frequently. He recommended rechargeable or lithium batteries; B. Lajoie agreed. Further discussion was continued to the May meeting. B. Lajoie will have more information available at that meeting.

Tide Marker: J. Fedora updated members on the tide marker. There has been an ongoing discussion about the tide marker at the end of Tide Mill Road, making it more visible, and increasing community awareness. J. Fedora has spoken to Chris Peter and Lynn Vaccaro (Coastal Training Coordinator) at Great Bay Reserve and they were interested in working with Greenland. They felt the Glenn Cove project at the Emery Farm would be a great place to have a tide marker where it would be more visible. Glenn Cove is a multi-use facility with boat ramps and access for hunters. It will also have a pavilion with

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picnic tables, bathrooms, etc. J. Fedora stated it would be a great place for a tide marker due to visibility. The initial phase of the Glenn Cove project is anticipated to be completed by November 2023. There is time for the Conservation Commission to consider further steps. A post at that location would also be more accessible for the Conservation Commission to check. Appropriate signage would have to be considered.

The Great Bay Reserve would be happy to do a community outreach program in Greenland. They would like to make the community aware of the Glenn Cove project and discuss the impact of sea level rise on this area. L. Vaccaro has offered to attend a Conservation Commission meeting to 'set the stage' for a community outreach program.

J. Fedora felt it would be good people to partner with the Great Bay Reserve on this project. He felt it would take a while but would be worth it. Access to Glenn Cove was discussed. The possibility of using a trail cam was briefly discussed. Electronic monitoring of the marker would be too expensive. J. Fedora noted there may be some hoops to jump through to get approval for the tide marker. J. Fedora has spoken to C. Peters and L. Vaccaro about his concerns. They will research further and get back to him. He recommended they attend a Conservation Commission meeting for further discussion about a community outreach program and the Glenn Cove project.

L. Ziel explained that the Conservation Commission is attempting to get more visibility with the Town and the work it does.

Finalization of 2022 Goals: J. Fedora will check on Peter Steckler attending a Conservation Commission meeting as an outreach program. Members thought P. Steckler would be discussing wildlife corridors.

L. Ziel noted that several projects for the upcoming year had been discussed and included the Thompson Brook trail clean up, the tank in the Town field, spring outreach/seedling project/speakers, easement monitoring with an intern, scavenger hunt, Natural Resources Inventory, wildlife corridors, Thompson Brook deer blind removal, Weeks Trail, Falls Way easement with Town Engineer, replacement of conservation placards at Falls Way. J. Fedora stated that L. Byergo felt a surveyor may be needed to locate the line in Falls Way; C. Hussey commented it would be expensive. Also on the list: East Coast Greenway/Portsmouth Rail Trail, trail cams, signage recommendations for the Greenway, presentation to the Berg's for their conservation land, and the annual Town Report.

L. Ziel stated that the Natural Resources Inventory needed to be updated. C. Hussey stated he has never seen anyone other than a member of the Conservation Commission look at the NRI. He had a problem with the cost of \$8,000. L. Ziel noted it had been discussed at the Tower Place presentation. C. Hussey commented that a lot of trails could be built with \$8,000. There has not been that much change in Town that would prevent new species coming into the area. L. Ziel noted the current NRI has steps that the Conservation Commission should do. C. Hussey agreed it was a complete book but had a problem re-doing it at this time. J. Fedora noted there had been some discussion about not doing the NRI this year but receive quotes. It had previously been discussed that if doing the NRI required time from members, it might not happen this year based on the items that needed to be done. C. Hussey suggested rather than redoing the whole report it may be less expensive to do the sections that need to be updated.

Members discussed the following goals: Thompson Brook Trail clean up (J. Fedora had a list of items to be removed); it was suggested that the Boy Scouts may be able to help. Members would like to remove the bigger items. B. Lajoie will take the lead on this project; J. Fedora will speak to the HOA. Tank in Town field: There will be further discussion once the tanks are located and the contents are determined. Spring Outreach: L. Ziel suggested it would be 'opportunity done' to invite a speaker and

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hold the program at the Library. Easement Monitoring: This will take place during the summer with the intern. Wildlife Corridors: J. Fedora suggested P. Steckler may be able to do a presentation in the summer as part of the Outreach program. J. Fedora will contact P. Steckler. Deer Blind Removal: B. Lajoie has not seen the deer blinds on the salt marsh or Valhalla Drive; he will contact the individual who has the deer blind in the Thompson Brook area. Weeks Trail: The Weeks Trail must be monitored once a year and should be part of the easement monitoring that will be done by the intern. Falls Way Town Easement with Engineer: C. Hussey suggested the cost be researched; replacing the markers should be done this year. J. Fedora and C. Hussey will do this project. Tide Marker: This project is in progress. Greenways: L. Ziel stated unless the Conservation Commission put up signage, there would not be much to do. B. Lajoie noted that extra hands may be needed to help with the rail trail. C. Hussey commented it would be contracted work. Members were not interested in a Scavenger Hunt.

J. Fedora suggested that two good outreach programs could be the wildlife corridors and the Great Bay Reserve discussing rising sea levels, etc. A third outreach program could be done as informational if the Women's Club had an event and the Conservation Commission had a booth.

L. Ziel noted that the scavenger hunt was the only item on the list that would not be done. L. Ziel will discuss the NRI with L. Byergo. Members would like to receive several quotes. They also would like to know if the entire NRI had to be done or could it be updated, possibly saving money. L. Ziel encouraged members to read the NRI, which is available in the office.

Trail Cams: B. Lajoie had been researching trail cams during the meeting. The fee for a yearly unlimited plan is \$120 for the first camera and \$96 per year for the second. The approximate cost for two cameras, two locks, two SD cards, batteries for two cameras, would be \$650. The annual cost of a plan would be approximately \$216. With the ProPlan Unlimited, there are unlimited pictures. A trail cam without a plan has a limit of 100 pictures. C. Hussey noted that he has gotten as many as 2,000 pictures in one month on his personal trail cam. The preferred trail cams allow for transmission of photos via cell towers; cameras would not have to be physically accessed constantly to retrieve and download SD cards. Further discussion was continued to the May meeting.

4. New Business

The budget was briefly discussed. The Board of Selectmen have not discussed the budget at this time. It was noted that the Town budget was decreased by \$200,000. Other 'New Business' topics were continued to the next meeting.

5. Other Business

Rolston Park: Trees were cut down 10 years ago and the stumps were left. Concerned about safety, C. Hussey recommended grinding the stumps in the mowed section. He continued that once the stumps were ground, it could be seeded and loamed. Members did not see a problem with grinding the stumps. J. Fedora noted the stumps could be a liability issue.

6. Adjournment

MOTION: C. Hussey moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Second – B. Lajoie; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 – 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

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Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant