



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

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Wednesday, September 14, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Kathleen Babin-Johnson, Laura Byergo, Joe Fedora, Brad Lajoie, Lloyd Ziel

Members Absent: Bill Bilodeau, Chip Hussey

Also Present: Steve Smith, Board of Selectmen Chairman, Peter Tansey – Summer Intern

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L. Ziel opened the Conservation Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was taken, and it was announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed.

1. Approval of Minutes

L. Byergo amended the minutes: Item 4, Natural Resources Inventory, page 3 to read *L. Byergo has contacted three experts...*

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to approve the minutes of Wednesday, August 10, 2022, as amended. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. Old Business

Trail Clean Up: B. Lajoie will meet with C. Hussey.

Trail Mowing: L. Byergo contacted Quality Hardwood for an update and has not heard back. Mowing and bushwacking was discussed.

Thompson Brook Trail: C. Hussey was not available to provide an update. L. Byergo noted that the trail sign was up.

Fishway at Winnicut River Bridge: C. Hussey was not available to provide an update. J. Fedora noted it is not on the 10-year plan.

Summer Intern: K. Babin-Johnson updated members that the summer intern was 50% to 75% complete with monitoring reports. He has five hours remaining. K. Babin-Johnson and the intern will go out to Falls Way one more time with the GPS. The intern could be short hours but may do some pieces gratis. L. Byergo noted that each year the easement monitoring reports have gotten better. Consideration may want to be given to increasing the hours for the summer intern.

Falls Way: There was a discussion regarding Ridgecrest Drive and Falls Way. Surveying was done this year. The homeowner at 1 Ridgecrest Drive has substantially gone into the easement. L. Byergo had asked the Building Inspector to confirm there was a violation; he agreed there was a problem. The

## DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Building Inspector took pictures at the time. The neighbor on Falls Way had mowed into their easement. L. Byergo discussed the emails between her and the Building Inspector (copy on file).

L. Ziel recently met with the Building Inspector. The Building Inspector has spoken to the residents involved. They have agreed to replant. The Building Inspector reminded L. Ziel that when looking at easements they cannot trespass on residents' property: not all easements have public access. L. Byergo added that K. Babin-Johnson posted a notice at Falls Way. Notice should be formally given in writing. L. Byergo delivered a letter and spoke to the homeowner. L. Byergo was concerned that the Building Inspector did not document any phone calls. Encroachment was the full length of the backyard by several yards. L. Ziel noted that the Building Inspector said some of the trees did need to be taken down. L. Byergo reiterated that the Conservation Commission needs to be informed because it is in the easement. L. Byergo did not think the homeowner came to the Town with their concerns about trees in the easement.

J. Fedora questioned if there should be something more permanent that is not easy to remove in the areas that needed to be protected (example: decals). L. Byergo noted there are lines, and the Conservation Commission monitors on an annual basis. The easement protects Norton Brook, beaver pond habitats, Atlantic White Cedar habitat, and wildlife corridor as well as other areas documented by Fish and Game and the Natural Heritage Bureau.

There was a discussion pertaining to whether property owners know/understand the conservation easement clause that may be included with their deed. L. Byergo commented that in some towns, the Conservation Commission will visit a new homeowner when the property is sold and present them with an informational packet. L. Ziel suggested giving informational packets to homeowners so they would have some baseline knowledge of conservation easements and their responsibility. J. Fedora suggested a brochure about conservation easements. L. Byergo suggested putting information on their Facebook page and the Town website. In Falls Way, the Town holds the easement, and the easement is on private property. The Town has the right to protect the property.

L. Byergo stated the next step for the Conservation Commission was to go to the Board of Selectmen to see what they want to do about the easement situation. L. Ziel responded it was a possibility, depending on the paper trail from the Building Inspector. The homeowner has 30 days to rectify the problem; the Building Inspector should be following up with the homeowner.

Trail Cam: B. Lajoie gave an update on pictures.

Natural Resources Inventory: L. Byergo distributed a model scope of work she received from Amanda Stone, UNH Cooperative Extension. A. Stone works with Conservation Commissions on various topics throughout the State. L. Byergo updated various section to specify Greenland. The document outlines what is supposed to be included in the Natural Resources Inventory. If the contractor is asked to do an update, they will look for the research that has happened in areas over the last 10 years and compile it. They can be asked to look at specific areas more closely (example: Falls Way). L. Byergo added to the beginning of the document: Objectives – Share results in person with both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board: that reflects the discussion the Conservation Commission had last month. The Conservation Commission was not interested in a charrette with the community but would like to have the information introduced to people. L. Ziel clarified that was an objective and not a requirement. L. Byergo stated the Conservation Commission would like to talk with the contractor when they get the job. After the research was done would be the best time to bring in the Planning Board before the report was written. The Conservation Commission would meet with the contractor when the report was completed.

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L. Ziel noted there was a lot of discussion at Rockingham County regarding climate change, reclaiming the soil and flooding impacts. The NRI contractor may have additional input under the climate change chapter. L. Byergo informed members that UNH would be having a series of workshops about their latest study/action plan on coastal New Hampshire. That may be included in Greenland's NRI. The document presented at this meeting may be enough for a quote from three experts. Members agreed to move forward with the NRI and have L. Byergo send out the document for quotes.

The deadline for bids will be Wednesday, November 30, 2022. The bid will be awarded for work to be done the beginning of next year. Funding for the NRI will be taken from the warrant article. L. Ziel thanked L. Byergo for her work on the NRI, adding he was very excited about it.

Banners: C. Hussey was not at this meeting to provide an update.

NH Association of Conservation Commissions Roundtable: There was not a September roundtable.

Great Bay Reserve Community Outreach Program: J. Fedora reported that Lynn Vaccaro is now on the Portsmouth Conservation Commission as well as at the Great Bay Discovery Center. Due to the poor turnout at the last community outreach program hosted by the Conservation Commission, J. Fedora was not sure it was an initiative they should push this year. L. Ziel agreed, adding the Conservation Commission may need to rethink their strategy.

Planning Board Update: J. Fedora updated the Board that the developer and Planning Board have reached an agreement for 40 units. There will be no duplexes; all homes will be single family. Traffic calming details still need to be finalized as well as fertilizer and winter chemicals. The access point crossing the wetlands has been eliminated. The dog park has been moved farther away from the wetlands and leach field. The upland island within the wetland is still on the plan and designated as a recreational area.

### 3. New Business

2023 Budget: K. Babin-Johnson requested that a GPS be included in the budget. The GPS will do more than the app currently being used by interns. The low end of the price range would be \$600 to \$700. The app is good on recognized parcel lines, which is needed in Falls Way. L. Byergo noted that a GPS was needed when Thompson Brook Trail was done. A GPS would be a helpful tool for future trail layouts. J. Fedora questioned if it was a one-time cost or if it would be recurring for updates.

MOTION: K. Babin-Johnson moved to include a GPS in the 2023 budget.

Discussion: Members discussed the feasibility of adding a GPS to the budget. K. Babin-Johnson felt there was need for a GPS and will research leasing vs. purchasing.

AMENDED MOTION: L. Byergo moved to make a budget request for a GPS unit, Town to procure, that could be shared between the Conservation Commission and Building Inspector, not to exceed \$2,000. Second – B. Lajoie; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Trash Removal: K. Babin-Johnson reported there is debris behind the Bethany Church Youth Building on Breakfast Hill Road near the trails in the easement area. The area can be accessed by a road near the teen center. L. Ziel will check with the Town Administrator for help with removing the debris.

4. Other Business

Monica Kelliher-Hamby, 16 Van Etten Drive: Her property abuts Town property and the Thompson Brook Trail area. The area on Liberty Lane behind her property is normally mowed once a year. There is a tree that is dead and appears to be on her property. M. Kelliher-Hamby would like to take it down at her expense. If a survey is necessary before the tree is taken down, she will pay to have that done. She has had two different tree companies to look at the tree. M. Kelliher-Hamby told members that the HOA has an arborist who has looked at the tree and said it would not fall down. The tree cutters could not guarantee it would not fall because it could be rotted in the middle. It is an ash tree, and an ash borer was mentioned. L. Byergo stated that an Emerald Ash Borer would be a bigger issue and the Conservation Commission should be informed. It was noted that if the tree fell, it would cause damage to the home. M. Kelliher-Hamby has had the invasives cut back. Members did not feel a survey was necessary. L. Byergo stated removing the tree would be considered a donation and should go to the Board of Selectmen. She noted the meadow on Van Etten Drive was given to the Town as open space and does not have the deed restrictions that Falls Way has with a conservation easement. L. Byergo explained the mowing process and area to be mowed.

MOTION: J. Fedora moved that the Conservation Commission accept the proposal from Monica and Steve Hamby, 16 Van Etten Drive, to remove the tree on their property and/or Town property at their own expense. Second – B. Lajoie; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Stephan Toth, 9 Palm Drive: He recently graduated from UNH and would like to get involved in the community. The Conservation Commission is allowed seven members and three alternates; there are currently seven members on the Board and no alternates. Alternates may participate in discussions but cannot vote unless a member is absent.

5. Reimbursement

Larry Day and L. Byergo recently worked in Rolston Park and rented a weed whacker.

MOTION: J. Fedora moved to reimburse Larry Day for equipment rental at Tri-Rental All in the amount of \$15. Second – L. Byergo; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

6. Adjournment

MOTION: K. Babin-Johnson moved to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Second – J. Fedora; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

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

Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant