



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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### Conservation Commission

#### Draft Minutes

November 10, 2022

7:00 pm @ Community Development Department

#### **Attendance:**

Chairman Dave Curto- present  
Vice Chair Wayne Morris- present  
Pam Skinner, regular member- present  
Lisa Ferrisi, regular member- present  
Kara Feldberg, Secretary- excused  
Brian McFarland, alternate- excused  
Mike Specian, alternate- excused  
Joe Bradley, alternate- excused

#### **New business/ Old business**

1. Eagle Scout proposal, Presenter, Sam Pancoast

Sam Pancoast addressed the Board. Sam plans on making some trail signs for the Clyde Pond Area. Mr. Pancoast said that navigation can be challenging for people using the trails and he would like to create signage to help people find their way on some of the trails. Sam said the cross-country trails are one of the most used in the area; he plans to focus his signage for trails off of the cross-country trails.

Vice Chair Morris stated that the Trails Committee will have Southern New Hampshire Planning attend that meeting if Sam is available to attend. The Board discussed the Trail Forks app. The Board discussed concentrating on the walking trails rather than the mountain bike trails as people tend to need more help orienting themselves on the walking trails.

The Board discussed the larger project of mapping the Conservation lands in town. Chairman Curto signed the paperwork for Sam.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris to approve Sam Pancoast's Eagle Scout Project as presented. Seconded by Ms. Ferrisi. Vote 4-0. Motion passes.**

Sam also explained that he requires an approval for fundraising. Sam would like to sell festive hats at the town tree lighting this December and this fundraising also requires Board approval.

2. Moosewood Ecological Wildlife [study estimate](#) discussion
  - a. Guest representative, Jeff Littleton

Ms. Jeff Littleton from Moosewood Ecological Study addressed the Board. Mr. Steven Lemond was also in attendance; he was at the last meeting that Moosewood Ecological was invited to. Mr. Littleton stated that the proposal is broken down into 5 basic tasks. 1. Project Planning and Reviewing which involves reaching out to organization to see what can be gleaned from information already available. 2. The field surveys are broken out into several different areas by species according to Mr. Littleton. Mr. Littleton also gave examples of some of the species information already available. Mr. Littleton also mentioned fish surveys as a different level of detail. Mr. Littleton stated that they also do corridor modeling. Mr. Littleton stated they believe in doing community outreach in the area as well in order to explain why they do what they do. Mr. Littleton mentioned doing Bio Blitzes as a way of engaging the public with the use of iNaturalist. Mr. Littleton also mentioned natural communities and how those might be defined and potentially protected by communities.

Mr. Steven Lemond addressed the Board to explain that this is a great community resource and project to have.

Mr. Littleton returned to the process and discussed ecological resilience, wetland mitigation and other areas that the Board might want to dig a little deeper, perhaps connected to restoration. Moosewood is also interested in helping communities to project management. The Board discussed some of the town owned conservation properties with the use of the GIS map. The Board discussed the human population increase and how that might impact conservation land in town. The Board discussed the bidding process. The Board then discussed the best way to proceed and the properties that were a priority to analyze. The Board discussed what the waiver process was for the bidding process and what that might mean for this project. The Board discussed that the priority was developing an inventory.

Mr. Norm Young, 1 Jordan Road addressed the Board. Mr. Young asked if it might be a good idea to make contact with other wildlife organizations and individuals as well as part of the process. Mr. Littleton stated that they do often do this as part of the process.

Mr. Littleton stated that winter time is the perfect time for planning so that they are prepared to do the field work in the spring when the vernal pools are out. Mr. Littleton stated that they would like to have a year to complete the project to take full advantage of the seasons.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris to take the proposal from Moosewood to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Seconded by Ms. Skinner. Vote 4-0. Motion passes.**

**Campbell Farm Updates:**

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris to approve the payment of \$2,250 to Fieldworks for the mowing at Campbell Farm Seconded by Ms. Ferrisi. Vote 4-0. Motion passes.**

Ms. Ferrisi stated that she needed help uninstalling and then reinstalling bird nests that she had installed in the area. The Board discussed the location of these nests and how best to support the bird population in the area. Ms. Ferrisi will reach out to the caretaker at Campbell Farm to see if he might be able to help on site so they do not need to be removed.

**Clyde Pond/ Ashton Park Updates:**

Chairman Curto stated that the deceiver device has been raised 6 inches.

**Deer Leap/ Moeckel Pond Updates:**

Vice Chair Morris stated that he, Dianne Fallon and Norm Young met with Brian McCarthy (town manager) last week to discussed the proposed stone wall proposal at Moeckel Pond.

Mr. Norm Young addressed the Board. Mr. Young stated that they will be sending a request for reconsideration. Mr. Young stated that there are two issues: this is a very unique project with large stones and require special equipment and there are no more quotes available in town. To out of town would mean that the project would become prohibitively expensive. Mr. Young stated that the proposed bidder is qualified to do the project and did preform the work on the dam itself. Mr. Young stated that there is no benefit to waiting to do the work or looking for other vendors as there are no others that do this kind of work.

**A motion was made by Ms. Skinner to approve Mr. Norm Young to go back before the Board of Selectmen to ask for their reconsideration of the bid process for the stone wall at Moeckel Pond. Seconded by Vice Chair Morris. Vote 4-0. Motion passes.**

**Fosters Pond/ Greenway Updates:**

Chairman Curto stated that Mr. Dubay discussed getting more surveying done in the area as well as the potential for drone footage of the area.

**Rt. 28/Melvaine Forest Updates:**

Chairman Curto had an invoice for work completed on this site. Upon review, it was decided that the invoice should go to the Forestry Committee for approval.

**Other Conservation lands and Easements Updates:**

1. Ashton Park beaver device update, see above
2. Wood meadows Parcel [25-R-8016](#) Deed review.

Chairman Curto discussed the potential encroachment happening in the area. Chairman Curto stated that Number 4 of the deed speaks to this in terms of the disturbance of that land. Number 5 stated that the grantor shall maintain signage of the area as conservation land to both protect the land and wildlife. Chairman Curto stated that the deed should have been signed by the abutters. Number 7 also speaks to the removal of material. Number 8 speaks to soil surfaces being restored. Chairman Curto stated that he believes this is important to pursue with town counsel.

3. Land donation

Vice Chair Morris stated that he got an email about the donation of land on Emerson Road. The Board discussed that the land donation went before the Board of Selectmen.

4. Merrill acquisition

The Board also discussed this piece of property in terms of land acquisition.

**Miscellaneous items:**

1. Thanksgiving meeting discussion and vote to meet or not to meet.

**A motion was made by Ms. Skinner to not meet on Thanksgiving, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Vice Chair Morris. Vote 4-0. Motion passes.**

**Park Ranger Position**

Chairman Curto stated that the town was preparing to start the budget and the park ranger position was being adjusted. Chairman Curto would like to see the hours for the Park Ranger increased so that more monitoring of the property can be done. Chairman Curto would like to see the hours extended for more of the year as well.

Chairman Curto stated that some of the dues amounts also need to be increased based on the amounts from last year. The Board discussed if the dues is coming out of the land use budget or from the town budget.

The Board discussed the amount for the trail budget. Chairman Curto stated he would like to propose requesting \$30,000 as the proposed amount to maintain these conservation lands. The Board discussed having the amount available for the money expended this year as part of the evidence to support why the Conservation Commission would need an increase in the maintenance budget. The Board discussed the best way to proceed with their budget questions, concerns and statements.

**A motion was made by Ms. Ferrisi to approve the recommended budget requests for 2023. Seconded by Ms. Skinner. Vote 4-0. Motion passes.**

**Meeting Minutes Review and Approve: [10/27/22](#)**

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris to post the public hearing for the purchase of Parcel 21-U-1 in the amount of \$175,000 with monies coming from the conservation land fund to the next available legal meeting. Seconded by Ms. Ferrisi. Vote 3-0-1. Chairman Curto recused himself. Motion passes.**

**A motion was made by Ms. Ferrisi to approve the October 27<sup>th</sup> draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Ms. Skinner. Vote 4-0. Motion passes.**

**ZBA: N/A**

**PB:**

**[Case 2021-49](#) – 154 Rockingham Road (Parcel 8-B- 6200); Major Final Site Plan Application, WWPD Special Permit, and Design Review Regulations Application; Zone – Neighborhood Business, WWPD, and Rt. 28 Access Management Overlay District.**

Commission to discuss Conservation Condition on Notice of Decision

The Board discussed the recent changes at the state level to a bill that might require boards to request that a third party come in to reevaluate the request. The Board discussed the best way to proceed. The Board discussed if this opinion really applied to this Board since this board is advisory in nature. The Board suggested writing in the notes to have the applicant come in and coordinate with the Conservation Commission. The Board discussed if this new bill did indeed change the procedure of the Conservation Commission. The Board also discussed that no representative was present at the meeting to discuss this with.

**[Case #2022-33](#): 131 Range Road (Parcel: 22-R-503); Customary Home Occupation; Zone – Rural District; Watershed Protection Overlay District (WPOD)**

The applicant Jamie Allen repairs small outdoor power equipment items. All repairs will be conducted inside garage and will not affect the surrounding areas

The Board discussed their concerns around spills and drainage in the garage and storage of the machines in need of repair and where those would be located. The Commission agreed with staff recommendations on this case.

**Intent to Cut Applications: N/A**

**DES Permits & Correspondence:**

**Non-public session under RSA 91A: 3 II (d)”**

Topic: Land acquisition

The Board briefly discussed that this was not necessary since they have not heard from the interested parties.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Morris to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Seconded by Ms. Skinner. Vote 4-0. Motion passes.**

**Respectfully submitted by Anitra Lincicum**

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