



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

Tel. (603) 899-5181 Fax (603) 899-2101 TDD 1-800-735-2964

### MINUTES for Meeting on February 10, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 by David Drouin**

**Members in attendance:**

David Drouin, Al Lefebvre, Del Friedman, Joe Desruisseaux, Richard Mellor, Rob Rubendall, Deni Dickler, Fred Rogers

**Nonmembers present**

Richard Synnott, Tom Hsu- Jaffrey CC

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Natural Resources Mapping update – Friedman
  - Positive activity moving project forward including account creation in ERSI, came in under projected cost. Overall, noted satisfaction with timeline and progress.
    - Next steps – trail mapping which will most likely be when snow melts, but can logically start at any point.
      - Training will be held for Rindge CC members at later date
      - Mellor asked about wetlands file and status- Lefebvre confirmed they were sent to Steve Ramonde
    - Hsu noted that he will send RCC a copy of the latest Jaffrey layers and links that can be housed on town website that will be presented to the Jaffrey later in the week. Useful because it will provide public/consumers information on wildlife if they want to follow more.
      - Friedman has the zip file link and will share with RCC
    - Hsu mentioned that there have already been layers that Jaffrey Conservation Commission (JCC) is considering adding- including well mapping for Planning Board use
- Conservationist of the Year update – Lefebvre
  - March 27 presentation at 6:30pm, award will be presented before the public lecture program. RCC to be at Rindge Rec by 6p
  - Suggestion posed to move Conservationist of the Year (CotY) in future.
    - Speaker and nominee dates for January with nominees solicited in October, speaker portion to be arranged in September/October.
- Wetlands report update - Drouin
  - Lefebvre filed report and Friedman put on website
  - Mellor noted that data will be on NRI report
    - Dickler asked if anything in report is different than what Planning Board is working with and should RCC hold time to update them. Lefebvre agreed. Mellor added that the valuation of wetlands is something that should be discussed with Planning Board during their presentation. If RCC is having a workshop with Planning Board, can wait until then.
    - Note: DES is rewriting wetlands rule and wetlands evaluation, will be finalized over Summer 2025 with goal of overall clarification.
- Goals/plans/strategic planning for 2025 – Drouin
  - Lefebvre distributed copies of plan, last updated January 2025
  - Friedman suggested changing document to “Proposed Projects 2025 and Beyond” – a property-focused menu of priority projects for RCC and volunteers
  - RCC debated the importance of land-based priority list and how it stacks against the Commission’s list of outreach projects, etc. projects. Determined to be a list of workday or physical stewardship projects.
  - The Commission reviewed the 2024 project list and updated it for 2025. The latter will be revisited with updates at the next meeting.
  - Bench summary – One needed to replace area at Tetreault. One additional needed at Mattabeseck meadow for bottom of the Red trail.

- Schoolhouse Park – 6” picnic table needed, good volunteer build project – can be stuck from Bench Summary list as Dickler noted it was already included in project list.
- Kiosks – minimal contain qualifications defined
- Update Trail Maps for Trail Pockets
  - No new discussion
- Conservation Land & Related Trail Stewards update - Rubendall
  - Moonlight Hike – enthusiastic attendees, led by Drouin and Mellor.
    - RCC members tested Tetrault Park slide, with rave reviews.
  - Rubendall noted recruiting trail stewards from current group of volunteers to increase. Current interest is two families, both of whom are interested in Converse Meadows.
    - Goal is to gain trail stewards to areas with significant number of trails, have orientation in April with interested parties with expectations of cleared brush and trail marking.
    - If RCC members know possible interested individuals, they should either make the ask directly or send them to Rubendall.
    - Recognition for stewards on kiosks and/or RCC swag for workdays could be ordered as extra incentive.

#### New Items from Rindge Recreation Department– Richard Synnott

- Synnott summarized a list of submitted and in-progress grants that will be used in support of Rindge Recreation Department and noted interest in identifying additional granting organizations for diversified funding opportunities.
  - Suggested having acknowledgment areas on kiosks, pavilions, etc.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Earth Day at Cathedral of the Pines, April 26 – Tom Hsu (Jaffrey CC)
  - Hsu noted that Dublin and Peterborough may want to join the celebrations as well. Goal of 200 attendees, S suggested an outline of 10a-4p. Current and anticipated offerings including:
    - Bob Allen will give a talk on “What is a Native Tree”, talk on PFAS on wells/ water quality, electric car/vehicle show, live music tent, food trucks/tent, possible guided river tour with donated kayaks
    - Each Conservation Comm will have a table
  - Open to suggestions for activities/programs with no cost to attend/participate for any groups. Dickler recommended that if attendance is a key performance indicator, interactive and ongoing events are important to include, i.e. children’s tent, recycled artwork, mini-hikes, hourly activities, series of talks.
    - Hsu noted that four teachers are committed to leading children’s activities, some of the Franklin Pierce students are interested.
    - Rubendall, Synnott highlighted connections to animal conservationists and will inquire to availability for the event.
  - Drouin asked if Fitzwilliam CC has been approached, which they have not. A member of RCC will reach out to invite.
  - Dickler suggested a subcommittee of the participating conservation commissions to organize, representative from each.
  - Dickler will amend Chamber article to note it will be a “multi-town” event
- Streaming Cons Comm meetings – Drouin
  - RCC in agreement to hold on decision until further review
- Conservation Commission website – Mellor
  - Discussion on report status for scan to website, will continue at next meeting
  - Mellor believes webpage is opportunity to better advertise RCC to town and potential new members.

### OFFICIAL NOTICES

- None for present meeting

### Account Approvals & Updates

- n/a

### Upcoming Events

- April 26 - Earth Day Event at Cathedral of the Pines

### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES for January 23, 2025

- Lefebvre moved to approve the nonpublic minutes of January 23, seconded by Friedman. The commission voted with all in favor, Rogers and Dickler abstained. The minutes were approved.



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- Mellor moved to unseal all the minutes of the nonpublic session pertaining to this issue (January 13 and January 23), seconded by Rubendall. The commission voted, all in favor, no abstentions. Motion passes.
- Public minutes of January 23- Mellor noted a misspelling of his name and that next meeting will be on Feb 17, date will be corrected.
  - Rubendall moved to approve the draft public minutes of January 23 with noted changes, seconded by Friedman. The commission voted with all in favor, Rogers and Dickler abstained. The minutes were approved.

**NEXT MEETING:** February 27, 2025

### ADJOURNMENT

Lefebvre moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mellor. The commission voted with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm

**Schedule of 2025 Meetings:** February 27, March 10 & 27 (Presentations at Rec Ctr), April 14 & 24 (26 Earth Day at Cathedral), May 12 & 22, June 9 & 26, July 14 & 24, August 11 & 28, Sept. 8 & 25, Oct. 13 & 23, Nov.10, Dec. 8.

*And any other business that comes before the Commission.*

*Minute recorded by Amanda Nardini*