**Minutes for Meeting on March 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

Conservation Commission members present: David Drouin, Richard Mellor, Al Lefebvre, Paul McPhie, Phil Simeone, Fred Rogers, Doreen Richards

Alternates Members present: William Preston, Deni Dickler, Rob Rubendall, Fred Dodge

Other participants: Julie Sementa

**OLD BUSINESS**

* Playscape – Richards shared a proposal for Tetreault Park developed by the Lemon Tree consultants for the natural playscape; it outlined possible layout and plans for the park. The plan will be shared with the Recreation Committee for reaction and additional input. Later the plan will be shared with the public and used for fund raising.
* Ford Family Nature Preserve parking lot pipes – Drouin reported that he has not received feedback from the Board of Selectmen on the issue. He reported that he along with Mellor and McPhie met with Lucas Withers a volunteer with engineering training to design a bridge across the causeway and another across the Millers river. Withers will work on a design and share it with the Commission for input. The design work will enable the Commission to develop a materials list needed for the project.
* Future Meetings, Work Days & Activities Calendar– Drouin. Lefebvre reported that he had not heard from any Corps members about participating in Earth Day work at conservation lands on April 24. Based on suggestions from Commission members he will try again. Ms. Sementa, a member of the Corps, indicated she would contact Boy Scout Troop 308 to see if they would assist at the Miriam Hunt Memorial Forest.
* Planning Board presentation – Dickler mentioned that she would talk with the Planning Director to be able to get on the Planning Board’s agenda for the presentation. The Commission discussed the possibilities and decided to postpone a presentation.
* Salamander Crossings - Rubendall and Dickler reported that they had attended the salamander training on March 18. Members thought it would be good to develop a list of crossing used by salamanders in Rindge to cross roads and to share that information with the Harris Center and with Rindge residents in order to be better prepared for next year.
* Wetlands Study Proposal – Richards presented a proposal from Rick Van de Poll to conduct a wetlands study in the coming months. After discussion, Lefebvre motioned to expend $14,000 from the Conservation Fund to pay for the study and $1000 for necessary maps. Richards seconded the motion. All members of the Commission agreed with the motion.
* Proposed Town (including Conservation Commission) website – Lefebvre/Dickler reported that they attended the web training conducted earlier in the day by the Town and Civic Plus provider of the software. Lefebvre shared a document with the Commission that outlined a proposal for how the Commission can use the different sections of the new website. He and Dickler mentioned that it will take some time to input all the proposed areas of the new website. The Commission agreed with the proposal.
* Term updates – Drouin reviewed a letter he planned to send to the Board of Selectmen for the reappointment of the following Commission members whose terms are expiring: Rogers, Mellor, McPhie, Richards & Rubendall.
* Monitoring of conservation lands – Lefebvre Commission members had no reports of any issues relating to conservation lands.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Trails Signs & Maps – Rubendall brought up the need for better trail signage. He indicated that at certain locations, it is difficult for a walker to discern proper directions. He indicated that directional arrows are needed and a “You are Here” marker on maps located at different locations. The Commission agreed and Rubendall will work on the project.
* Fund Raising Status – Lefebvre reported that the Commission recently received a donation and it now only needs to raise $1118.20 to complete the $25,000 matching grant. Drouin reported on a check that was found at the mailboxes at the Town Office months after its usage date had expired. Those funds would have reduced the funds needed for the matching grant.

Announcements:

* Wildwood Camperships – Lefebvre reported that Wildwood Camp has offered four Day Camp scholarships through the Commission. Day Camp is for children 6-11 years of age. Wildwood is also providing one scholarship (worth $2300) to a teen (age 15-17) for its Environmental Leadership program. Lefebvre will offer Day Camp scholarships first to children who were awarded a scholarship last year but were unable to attend because the camp closed due to the covid pandemic. He will also contact Conant High School with the Environmental Leadership opportunity and post it appropriately.
* There is now a Conservation Commission date stamp at the Town office which can be used for documents that are received.

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Simeone moved and ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Lefebvre seconded to enter non-public. The Commission was polled and all agreed.

Mellor motioned and ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Simeone seconded to seal the minutes of the non-public meeting. The Commission agreed with the motion.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**: Public and Non-public Minutes, Match 8, 2021

Simeone motioned and Dickler seconded to approve the public and non-public Minutes of March 8, 2021. The Commission voted and approved the motion with Dodge and Rogers abstaining.

**OFFICIAL NOTICES**

NH DES Shoreland Permit Application – Map 11 Lot 11, 7-13 Grassy Pond Road, Andrew Krook -No action by Commission.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** None

**NEXT MEETING:**  April 12, 2021 (virtual via Zoom)

**Schedule of 2021 Meetings** *(note: Jan – Mar meetings will be virtual via Zoom):*Apr. 22, May 10 & 27, June 14 & 24, July 12 & 22, Aug. 9 & 26, Sept. 13 & 23, Oct. 11 & 28, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

*Minutes recorded by Al Lefebvre*