

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

Tel. (603) 899-5181

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TDD 1-800-735-2964

Minutes for Meeting on June 8, 2020

This meeting was held online.

The meeting convened at 7:03 pm.

Roll Call was taken by Drouin and the following members were in attendance via Zoom: David Drouin, Joseph Desruisseaux, Richard Mellor, Phil Simeone, Doreen Richards, William Preston, Deni Dickler, Fred Dodge, Al Lefebvre, Fred Rogers, Paul McPhie

OLD BUSINESS

- Playscape Update – Richards reported she met with members of the Recreation Committee. The cost for a base plan for the playscape is approximately \$2000 and \$5000 for the concept design to be done in three phases. That committee plans to request funding from the P.O.O.R. organization and hopes to also receive funding from the RAMS. A Playscape meeting is planned for June 17.
- Fundraising updates – Lefebvre reported that \$10,870 had been raised for the matching grant from 15 donors. The Commission needs to raise \$14,130 to complete the \$25,000 matching grant and fund request cards will be distributed to members to share with family, relatives, friends and neighbors for assistance and financial support. The owner of Rindge Stone & Gravel joined the meeting on the telephone for a short while and the Commission explained our fundraising status and the expectation that all needed funds will be raised by the end of the year. The owner indicated there were no changes in his plans to sell the property to the Commission and that presently he was excavating and extracting gravel as he has indicated he would at an earlier meeting.
Lefebvre reported that the ARM Fund pre-application had been submitted and that we should receive notification by mid-June if the Commission can submit a full application which has a submission date by August 31, 2020. Funding awards will be made in Nov-Dec time period.
- Ford Wildlife Preserve Update- Drouin reported that he, McPhie, Dickler and Rubendall had completed the demolition of the old shed at the Ford preserve on May 30 and had taken the debris to MDS in Jaffrey at a cost of \$125.00. The work crew also worked on brushing and pruning. Mr. Ford has cut grass on the preserve to help keep down the brush. Drouin reported that wooden posts are needed at the property corners identifying it as conservation land and will also need additional posts and fences. He mentioned that there is a lot of work still needed and the Commission needs to decide how to create a causeway across the stream.
- Farmer's Market Update – Dickler reported that she was assisted by Rubendall at the June 4 market but that it appeared fewer people came than the last time. She did receive a clothing request and a donation for the RS&G property. Preston and Rogers will assist at the Commission's next market day on June 18.
- Monitoring of conservation lands – The following conservation lands were visited:
 - o Tetreault Park – Richards
 - o Tetreault Park & Town Forest – Preston
 - o Contoocook Marsh Complex – McPhie – marked loop trail

- o Schoolhouse Park – Drouin – tree down and due to low water level, people can walk across the stream; also noticed trash in the area.
- o Tetreault Park – Dodge
- o Tetreault Park – Desruisseaux
- o Hunt Memorial Forest – Mellor – suggests an estimate for gravel along entry road with either a drainage pipe or reasonably sized rocks to permit water flow; he will obtain an estimate from Jon Flagg.

Dodge reported that he evaluated suspect trees at Tetreault Park and found eight had rot and ant problems. He suggested harvesting the trees for boards and Richards will contact Damon lumber for possible assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

- Contoocook Marsh Clean-up – June 13 – Meet at boat launch at County Road at 8:30 and break into teams to work on different sections of the conservation complex. Mellor will bring plantings and wildflower seeds to spread at Rogers Landing.
- TD Bank CD Extension to December – Lefebvre motioned to extend the TD Bank CD for another six months as action was needed by the end of June. Someone seconded the motion and after discussion, Drouin polled the Commission. All members approved the motion.
- ROST Meeting – Lefebvre reported he attended the quarterly ROST meeting via Zoom. Eight other conservationists attended from Mason, Wilton, Amherst, Merrimack, Milford, Brookline and Temple. Among the issues discussed were:
 - o NHACC Annual meeting logistics such as how to conduct it. Barbara Richter mentioned that the present focus of the meeting would be on terrain alteration issues (to be conducted by DES). Richter said the NHACC is working the UNH-Extension for a wildlife training program and information will be sent to members shortly.
 - o Can a loan be taken against a Conservation Fund? Yes, BUT contact Town attorney before doing so.
 - o ATVs and mountain bike usage and damage to conservation lands.
 - o Using NHFG landscape document to plan best routes for trails on conservation lands.
- <https://wildlife.state.nh.us/trails/documents/trails-for-people-wildlife.pdf>
- Request from Taylor Burke to paint quotes from Martin Luther King on benches at Converse Meadow – Lefebvre reported the at Taylor requested Commission approval to paint quotes on benches at Converse Meadow and Contoocook March which were donated. The Commission agreed to do allow the painting but wanted secular quotes.
- CNBRLC invoice – Preston Annual membership to \$100 for Contoocook & North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee. Mellor motioned and Lefebvre seconded to approve the expenditure.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: May 28, 2020

Desruisseaux motioned and Mellor seconded to approve the May 11, 2019 Minutes. Desruisseaux noted an omission regarding 2020 NH State Conservation Committee Conservation Moose Plate Grant that was approved at the 5/20/2020 Governor and Executive Council meeting. The Commission was polled and all approved with the change.

NEXT MEETING: June 25, 2020 via Zoom

2020 Schedule of Meetings: June 21 – Contoocook Marsh Tour,

June 25, July 13 & 23, August 10 & 27, Sept. 14 & 24, Oct. 12 & 22, Nov. 9, December 14

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34

Minutes recorded by Al Lefebvre.

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