



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 April 22, 2021

Meeting held on the internet via Zoom

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm

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

Other participants: Judy Unger-Clark, Kevin Trimble

OLD BUSINESS

- Ford Family Nature Preserve parking lot pipes – Drouin reported that he had not heard anything back from the Board of Selectmen (BOS) but would send an email for an update.
- Future Meetings, Work Days & Activities Calendar – Lefebvre discussed the planned calendar and hopes to finalize it so it can be promoted and placed on the website. Dickler suggested changing the June Contoocook Marsh tour to June 20 for Father's Day as that date was popular last year. There was also discussion about holding another full moon tour in the warmer months and a bird walk however, no decision was made about those and will be discussed at future meetings.
- Salamander Crossings Update – Commission members mentioned that snow and cold weather was adversely affecting crossings.
- Earth Day – April 24. Drouin reviewed the planned effort and Commission members who will guide the clean-up work at Converse Meadow (McPhie and Rubendall), Miriam Hunt Town Forest (Lefebvre) and Tetreault Park (Drouin). Work will start at 9:00 am and end at or before Noon.
- Playscape – Richards reported that the Recreation Committee is very excited about the plan for the natural playscape developed by Lemon Tree Consultants at Tetreault Park. Dan Bemis identified about \$11,000 to use for the design which is being revised slightly based on the committee's suggestions. Dan Bemis will act as the General Contractor for the project. The committee also plans to use the plan for a fund-raising effort. The Commission discussed consideration for lighting and electrical needs for the park as well as possible future latrine, maintenance, water and cabin usage. At some point, it was suggested that Rec Committee stake out sections of where playscape activities will be created for residents to see as this might engender further support.
- Summer Volunteer Service – Richards & Guest, Kevin Trimble. Trimble explained that the program provides mid-late teens students on the autism spectrum with social support while they perform volunteer activities. The program which will be stationed at Franklin Pierce University during two sessions (June 10-July 14, July 21 – August 4), is looking for community service projects which will foster life skills experiences. Each session is for seven days and the project would be in the afternoon (2:00 – 4:30 pm) during 5 days of the session. The students are in the mid-late teens. Commissioners suggested a project at Tetreault Park to remove an invasive species during one of the sessions. The session would involve a Commission member

showing what participants what needs to be done. Richards will coordinate for the Commission to work out details and planning.

- Chamber of Commerce Newsletter – Dickler requested suggestions for the next Chamber newsletter which she will submit. Lefebvre suggested encouraging people to join the Conservation Corps.
- NHB Database for rare species – Dickler reported that the NHB database is used as the basis for developers to determine if there are rare species on land under possible development in order to comply with state regulations. Since they typically find none, approval is given. The reason little is found in the database is because it is not updated with information on a regular basis by residents. Commission members suggested putting a notice on the Town website asking residents to report species of special concern; Dickler will develop an information sheet which will be used to post a message about how to submit reports.
- Wildwood Camperships Status – Lefebvre reported that announcements have been posted on the Town website and at the Town Office and Library with a May 1 deadline for applications.
- Monitoring of conservation lands – The Commission discussed the switchback at the Town Forest and the proposed replacement that is needed. Rubendall and Mellor mentioned that found another location near the switchback that might be an easier replacement for it but would need owner approval to cross that land. Mellor has been trying unsuccessfully to contact the owner. The land that links Homestead Road with the Town Forest crosses private property and needs owner approval to include in trail maps. Preston reported that students of Prof Christoph of Franklin Pierce University have placed QR codes at different Converse Meadow locations that identify activities that can be performed at the site.

NEW BUSINESS

- Planning Board decision on storage facility at Map 2 Lot 59-3 within 50' setback at Route 202, (former Sears location). Mellor reported that the proposed facilities encroach on and violate the town's wetlands ordinance. The storage facility plan was approved by the Planning Board without consideration to the wetlands at the site. The plan needs approval from the Zoning Board of Approval. Mellor drafted and the Commission approved his letter of appeal to the ZBA which will be filed by certified mail within the 30 day appeal period.
- NH DES Permit by Notification for Eversource ROW inspection – Drouin reviewed the permit notification that indicated Eversource plans to inspect electrical poles in the coming months along its right-of-way.
- Election of Commission Officers. Mellor nominated Drouin for Chair of the Commission for the coming year and the nomination was seconded by Simeone. The Commission voted and elected Drouin. Mellor was nominated and elected as Vice Chair.
- RCC response to Navian Development BOA request for variance. Drouin reviewed the letter he drafted as a response to the Navian Development's request for a Variance with the ZBA. The Commission agreed with the letter and requested that it be sent by certified mail to the ZBA.

Lefebvre motioned to enter a Non-Public session per RSA 91-A:3 Real Estate. Preston seconded the motion and the Commission voted and approved the motion.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION per RSA 91-A:3 – REAL ESTATE

Mellor motioned and Rubendall seconded to seal the Minutes of the Non-Public meeting. The Commission approved the motion.



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Announcements

- Fund Raising Status – Lefebvre was pleased to report that a donation has been received that allows the Commission to meet the \$25,000 matching grant. Lefebvre and Drouin thanked the Commission members for their generous donations that allowed the Commission to match the grant. At an appropriate future date, Lefebvre will notify the matching donor for information about how to properly notify them of the match.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: April 12, 2021

Simeone motioned and Mellor seconded to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2021. The Commission voted and approved the motion with Richards abstaining.

NEXT MEETING: May 10, 2021 (virtual via Zoom)

Schedule of 2021 Meetings (note: Jan – May meetings will be virtual via Zoom): May 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.