



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

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Minutes for Meeting on March 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened at 7:00 pm

Members present: David Drouin, Richard Mellor, Al Lefebvre, Doreen Richards, Phil Simeone, Fred Rogers, Rob Rubendall

Alternate Members present: Deni Dickler, Fred Dodge

Other Attendee: Laurel Cameron

OLD BUSINESS

- Rindge Stone & Gravel Update – Drouin reported that he had emailed the Town Administrator to set-up a date for a public hearing for the acceptance of donations for the Rindge Stone & Gravel property that had been received so far but he had not yet had a response. The Commission noted that this needs to be done soon as the closing for the property will take place shortly.
 - Survey costs. Lefebvre reported that he had received emails from Rick Van de Poll concerning invoices for surveyor costs that had not been paid which are holding up the Moose Plate funding. The Commission had thought that Pitt Pipeline was going to pay these costs. The Commission, on a motion by Lefebvre and seconded by Simeone voted to pay the invoice costs of \$2907 from the Conservation Fund.
 - The Commission wanted to know the status of the driveway permit that Pitt Pipeline was going to obtain. Drouin said he would ask Van de Poll if he knew about the status.
 - The Commission discussed funds that would be needed to close the sale of Rindge Stone & Gravel. After reviewing projected expenses, Mellor motioned and Rogers seconded to expend up to \$265,000 from the Conservation Fund for the purchase from the donations received into the Conservation Fund and from grants received for this purpose. All members of the Commission voted and approved the motion.
- Bird presentation – Mellor reported that the bird presentation will take place at the Rec Center on April 28 at 6:30. The costs for the presentation were more than expected. Mellor motioned and Simeone seconded to approve an expenditure from the Conservation Fund up to \$400 for the presentation. All of the Commission members voted to approve this expenditure.
- Pollinator Seeds & Planting – Lefebvre reported that Donna Straitiff understood that the pollinator seeds would be mailed next week. The Commission will prepare ground at the Town Forest and the Ford Family Wildlife Preserve on April 16 starting at 8:00 am. Students from the Winchendon School will plant seeds on April 26 at the Town Forest; Library volunteers can plant seeds at the Ford Family Wildlife Preserve at a date to be determined.
- Commission recruitment – Dickler/Lefebvre – The Commission discussed the need to attract conservation-minded people to serve on the Commission as Alternates. Dickler mentioned some names that came to her attention from her Facebook posting and these will be discussed at a later meeting. Lefebvre mentioned the need for personal contact with potential members and asking them to attend a Commission meeting. Drouin mentioned that in the past the Selectmen have placed a notice in the newspaper soliciting for volunteers for Town committees but he is unaware if that will happen this year.
- Bioblitz with Library – Lefebvre said he had discussed the possibility of conducting the Bioblitz during one of the annual conservation land tours however, he and the Librarian thought it may be

problematic for people who attend the tours and the need to attend to children. As a result,, the library will hold the Bioblitz itself at Tetreault Park on June 11 (1:00-3:00 pm) with June 12 as a rain date.

- McPhie Memorial – Drouin had no new information on trees for a memorial. Further discussion will take place when more information is available.
- Monitoring of conservation lands – Lefebvre mentioned that some work may be needed at the different conservation lands. The Commission suggested that each member take one of the properties and walk it and take note of needed work. Mellor will walk Schoolhouse Park, Richards will handle the Town Forest, Cameron will walk Converse Meadow, Drouin will walk the Miriam Hunt Town Forest, Dodge and Simeone will handle Contoocook Marsh.
 - Converse Meadow – tree is down near the kiosk
 - Tetreault Park – driveway and playscape bid status – Drouin reported that he had sent out letters to contractors and had received responses from six. Not all of the contractors were available for a Saturday meeting so Lefebvre will contact them for a convenient evening meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mellor expressed concern about an excavation taking place at land near the former GFA complex on Route 202 that is in a wetland area. He mentioned the excavation to the Town Planner who knew nothing about it and said that no plans had been submitted to the town. The issue was brought to the Town's Code Enforcement Officer, Chris Carreira, who will investigate and possibly have the Selectmen issue a Cease and Desist order. The property is owned by Algav LLC at 102 Main St. in Rindge.

Mellor also mentioned that he had sent a letter to Jamison Van Dyke concerning the replanting required by NH DES that was necessary to repair the damage he caused on Goddard Rd. Van Dyke indicated he would have his staff work on it.

OFFICIAL NOTICES – Announcements

Summer tours of conservation land
Trash at Contoocook Marsh
“My Garden of a Thousand Bees” April 21
Troop 308 camping rescheduled to April 9-10 weekend.

Bill Preston's passing was discussed. Bill had been a long-term member of the Commission who had devoted many hours to Rindge conservation. He was a highly respected member of the Commission who was also a wonderful person. He will be sadly missed by everyone. The Commission will discuss an appropriate memorial to Bill at a later date.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes for March 14, 2022

Mellor motioned and Richards seconded to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2022. Commission members approved the motion with Dodge abstaining.

OFFICIAL NOTICES:

- NH DES 2022-00031, Shoreland Impact Permit, Map 15 Lot 34, 204 Fourth St., Timothy Zietara. Reviewed by the Commission.
- NH DES 203041, Stump Pond Dam, Elizabeth Bruno, Hampshire Country School. Reviewed by the Commission.

NEXT MEETING: April 11, 2022

Schedule of 2022 Meetings April 28, May 9 & 26, June 13 & 23, July 11 & 28, August 8 & 25, Sept. 12 & 22, October 10 & 27, Nov 14, Dec. 12

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. Minutes recorded by Al Lefebvre