



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

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Draft Minutes for Meeting on February 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened at 7:00 pm

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

Alternate members present: Deni Dickler

OLD BUSINESS

- Tetreault Park/Playscape work – Drouin reported that he is working on a third quote for the parking area and playscape at the park. Trees need to be taken down in the playscape area and Richards will go there with Dan Bemis to mark them. The trees then will be cut down and removed by Commission members.
- Review of RCC 2023 schedule. The Commission reviewed the proposed schedule of its events for 2023 and made adjustments based on priorities and needs.
 - Rogers will make a presentation on the geology of the Granite State geology on March 23 at the Rec Center but date needs to be confirmed and publicized.
 - In order to promote pollinator plant growth, the Commission will promote a “No Mow Lawn May” effort within the town. The Commission will post information about the program on signs and on the website encouraging lawn owners to refrain from cutting grass during the month so pollinator type plants will have a greater chance of growing.
 - Dates for conservation land tours, presentations and work days were discussed and will be posted.
- Review of updated RCC 2023 projects list. Commission members reviewed work projects for the year and made needed adjustments. The projected work list will be posted and the Conservation Corps especially will be asked to assist as much as possible in view of the large amount of tree damage that has occurred due to the strong winter wind damage. An early priority will be to prepare the Mattabesect Wildlife Corridor ready for its grand opening on May 21 (1:00 pm).
- Mattabesect Wildlife Corridor signage update – Lefebvre reported that he had picked-up signs that the Commission had ordered for the new kiosk. He plans to work with Joe Desruisseaux to affix them to plywood before attaching them to the kiosk.
- Mattabesect Opening – May 21 – Lefebvre distributed a proposed program, speaker and invitation list for the opening. The event will occur on May 21 regardless of weather. Pop-up tents will be set-up for the opening and a large water container will be available for the public. A large scissor will be needed to cut a ribbon for the trail opening. Richards will handle picture-taking for the day. A hand-out for the event will be prepared for distribution to attendees. Various trail signs and markers will need to be ordered and posted.
- Monitoring of conservation lands – Much work is needed at each of the conservation lands due to winter damage. The list of projects will be updated and posted; it is an aggressive list that will need assistance from the Conservation Corps. Drouin met with Jay Pittorino about the parking area trail and the trail along the power line. Pittorino said he would remove small stumps along the parking area and out-in 4” of mulch. When asked about access along the power line Pittorino said he planned to expand that road to about 40 feet in the future. In the meantime, new trail signs will be posted to direct the public to the edge of the road and onto a trail so they do not interfere with Pitt Pipeline equipment. Drouin also reported that there was significant wind damage at Converse Meadow.

NEW BUSINESS

- Conservation Fund Update – Helene Rogers attended the meeting and brought the Commission up-to-date on the status of the Conservation Fund.
- Merrimack Partnership revised plan – Dickler explained the signage and costs associated with the grant to place signs that will be placed at Converse Meadow and its loop area to provide more information to the public about wildlife and nature. Three themes were selected for the signs: vernal pools, wildlife and waterfowl. Posts will be needed for the three signs and the cost for them is included in the grant budget (\$1529). The large trail sign will be placed in the kiosk along the rails-to-trail.
- Letter to Planning Board concerning changes to Major Site Plan at Map 2, Lot 46-1, Knight Lane and Middle Winchendon Rd for Timothy Halliday, Graz Engineering, Paul Grasewicz. This project will be reviewed at the next meeting since the builder plans to apply for a Special Exception and/or Variance.
- Letter to Planning Board concerning review of Minor Site Plan for a Condominium submitted by Field-stone Land Consultants PLLC, Tax Map 31 Lot 9-1, 1102 NH Route 119, for Jonah Ketola. Reviewed by the Commission.

OFFICIAL NOTICES:

- NH DES 2023-00176, Permit by Notification Accepted, Map 43 Lot 1-9, 62 Jowders Cove Rd., Nancy L Cohen. Reviewed by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes for January 26, 2023

Mellor motioned and Rubendall seconded to approve the Minutes of January 26, 2023. The Commission voted and approved the motion with Dickler and Simeone abstaining.

NEXT MEETING: February 23, 2023

Schedule of 2023 Meetings: Mar. 13 & 23, April 10 & 27, May 8 & 25, June 12 & 22, July 10 & 27, Aug. 14 & 24, Sept. 11 & 28, Oct. 9 & 26, Nov. 13, Dec. 11.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Minutes recorded by Al Lefebvre