



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

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Draft Minutes for Meeting on September 28, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened at 7:02 pm

Members present: David Drouin, Richard Mellor, Al Lefebvre, Rob Rubendall, Phil Simeone

Alternate Members present: Joe Desruisseaux, Del Friedman, Deni Dickler, Fred Dodge

Other Attendee: Mike O'Neil (Cons. Corps Member)

OLD BUSINESS

- Tetreault Park update & Use Committee –The Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission completed a lot of work at Tetreault Park on the September 20 workday. More work however is needed before the end of the year to complete the project such as setting-up the slide, spreading woodchips, etc. DigZ has dug the trench for electrical conduit that Eversource will install. Desruisseaux will convene a subcommittee with Rubendall and Friedman to develop a plan for the cabin's future use. He also mentioned that the cabin door is available for pick-up at Home Depot and he and Drouin will go to Keene to get it.
- 2022 & 2023 Merrimack Conservation Partnership – Dickler shared the new signs for Contoocook Marsh that were received from the Merrimack Partnership. These colorful and informative signs will be installed at Contoocook in the coming months after their frames are delivered. A date for a presentation will be established for formal acceptance of the signs. Dickler is also working with the Merrimack Partnership for 2023/24 signs for Matabeseck.
- Contoocook Marsh Tour update – September 17 – Dodge reported that about seven people attended the tour through various parts of the conservation area.
- 539 Old New Ipswich Rd cutting – Mellor reported that he and Lefebvre had visited the site with the Code Enforcement Officer and owner. After review, it was decided there was no wetlands violation.
- Sno-Moles agreement – Drouin reviewed the signed agreement for a trail across Elaine Olson property to the town forest and onto other snowmobile trails. The agreement, similar to that used with other town/state agencies, was approved by the Commission.
- Monitoring of conservation lands
 - Converse Meadow – Workday projects for Oct. 14 The Commission will review the Converse Meadow project list at its next meeting on Oct. 9. Lefebvre will contact Conservation Corps members for assistance. The chipper will be needed on the workday.
 - Tetreault Park/Town Forest – Lefebvre reported that Rindge Boy Scout Troop 308 will camp at Tetreault on Oct. 14 and have been advised that they need to avoid work areas at the Play-scape. See above for a subcommittee that will develop a plan for the long-term use of the cabin. Drouin reported that he had cut the last of the remaining wood at Tetreault.
 - Miriam Hunt Town Forest – Drouin reported that he and Lefebvre met with Paul Knight on Sept. 24 to review possible driveway; Knight will prepare a work plan with costs (excluding gravel type material). The Commission will hold its last of summer tours at the Miriam Hunt Town Forest on October 15 and will be led by Fred Rogers.

NEW BUSINESS

- Canoe trailer/Rindge Procurement & Property Disposal Policy – Drouin reviewed the Town's Property Disposal Policy. Rubendall will develop for the Town Administrator a detailed explanation of the donated trailer that has been used for a canoe. She will then share it with department heads to see if they have a need for it. If there is no need, bids will be sought for its sale.

- RCC File upload status – Friedman reported on the current status of uploading Commission documents to the computer set-up at the Town Office. He reported that the file structure has been created and some files from Lefebvre were uploaded. It was decided by the Commission not to upload past agenda or various versions of notices prepared for the public about events.
- Conservation Award – Lefebvre presented a draft proposal for an award to recognize outstanding contributions to Rindge conservation; this will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.
- Arboretum Proposal – Rubendall reported on a proposal in the early stage to create an arboretum in conjunction with various conservation lands in Rindge adjacent to the Cathedral of the Pines and Annett State Forest/Park.
- CNBRLAC update – Lefebvre reported on the last CNBRLAC meeting. This group has been asked by NH DES to update its ten year-old plan for the Contoocook and north branch rivers. Lefebvre reported that Rindge's NRI to the Advisory Committee's chair.
- Value added contributions – Mellor suggested that the Commission begin tracking value added contributions such as use of personal equipment used on workdays and other events.
- Map of Rindge Aquifers – Lefebvre displayed the aquifer map that was given to the Commission and was previously on the Planning Office wall; a storage/display location will be identified.
- Drouin reported that he had spoken with the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on September 27 about the late processing of fines for removing lands from Current Use assessment. The Town did not send a tax bill to owners by the required 18 months after the sale of property. As a result, they did not pay a full tax assessment because their land was in current use. The Board noted that there were KPMG staffing problems associated with processing these assessments.

OFFICIAL NOTICES:

- NH DES Standard Dredge & Fill Wetland Permit Application 2023-02513, Map 6 Lot 99-6-2 Off Route 202, Algave LLC. The Commission did not find a problem with the proposed culvert but had questions about road permit. A letter will be sent to the Town's Code Enforcement Officer to review roadway permits at the site.
- NH DES 2023-02489, Shoreland Permit Application, Map 39 Lot 14, 150 Kimball Rd., John Brum. Reviewed by the Commission.
- NH DES 230925-298 Alteration of Terrain, Map 2 Lot 46-1-1, Falling Leaf Lane P.U.R.D., Tim Halliday. Reviewed previously by the Commission.

Announcements/Reminders

Women's Club Annual Fall Harvest, September 30 at Recreation Center, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm - Dickler
Converse Meadow Workday – Saturday, October 14 starting at 8:00 am

NHACC Annual Meeting at Pembroke Academy. Sign up before October 28 to get the early bird rate of \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members.

POOR Meat Raffle – Sat. Dec. 2, 1:30 – 6:00 pm at VFW on Route 202, Jaffrey – 8 Commission/Corps members are needed to staff this event.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes for September 11, 2023

Simeone motioned and Rubendall seconded to approve the Minutes of September 11, 2023. The Commission approved the motion with Dickler and Dodge abstaining.

NEXT MEETING: October 9, 2023

Conservation Land Tours:

October 15 Miriam Hunt town Forest. Possible Moonlight Walk at Mattabeseck on date to be determined.

Schedule of 2023 Meetings: Oct. 26, Nov. 13, Dec. 11.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Minutes recorded by Lefebvre

And any other business that comes before the Commission.