



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

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Minutes for Meeting on October 26, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened at 7:02 pm

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

Alternate Members present: Joe Desruisseaux, Deni Dickler

OFFICIAL NOTICES

- NHDES 2023-02637, Accepted Shoreland Permit by Notification, Map 41 Lot 7, 35 Pine Eden Rd, Simon Mosley – Reviewed by the Commission.
- NH DES 2023-02489 Shoreland Impact Permit, Map 39 Lot 14, 150 Kimball Rd, John Brum. Reviewed by the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

- Playscape partnership – Mellor is awaiting information from Dan Bemis of the Recreation Department about the status of playscape completion and impending deadlines. He indicated that playground chips need to be spread to comply with playground requirements.
- Tetreault Park update – While conduit has been installed Eversource needs to bring in electrical wires. Drouin indicated he will contact Eversource. Mellor indicated that most all of DigZ work has been completed although holes for the septic area need to be filled. A sign proposal was discussed to be placed at the playscape to explain to the public how the project was started and the roles of groups that assisted.
- Tetreault Cabin Plan – The subcommittee for the cabin plan will meet in November.
- Miriam Hunt Town Forest Tour update – October 15 Rogers reported that 11 residents attended this tour and found it enjoyable; some did not know of its existence. Rogers commented favorably on the work on the area by the Commission and Conservation Corps to clear trails and chip limbs that had been cut. This area as well as other conservation areas were adversely affected by last winter's heavy snow storms and required a lot of clean-up work. The collection of food for the Food Bank went well and will be part of this tour in the future. Drouin discussed a plan to fix the access road to this Town Forest to allow better and more accessible parking rather than along Route 119. The plan will involve scraping organic material from the current roadway, inserting a culvert, acquiring and spreading rock and crushed gravel; Sunrise Landscaping will coordinate and perform the work. Mellor motioned and Desruisseaux seconded to expend up to \$11,000 from the Conservation Fund for materials and labor to complete the project. The Commission approved the expense.
- Sno-Moles work at Town Forest – Drouin reported that the Sno-Moles have created a wide opening off the Rails-to-Trails to create a trail through private property (with permission) and the Town Forest to access snowmobile trails in the western part of Rindge. He said they were doing good work and were moving forward to completion before snow arrives.
- Monitoring of conservation lands – Dickler reported that new conservation signs from the Merrimack Conservation Partnership for the Contoocook Conservation complex are in the mail and will be put up during the next workday (see below) using post donated by Desruisseaux.

NEW BUSINESS

- Next Workday – The Commission discussed options for a location for the workday on November 11 and decided to focus on the Contoocook area. The Commission noted that a lot of good work has been accomplished for residents at two other areas: Converse Meadow and Miriam Hunt Town Forest. For the November 11 workday, Conservation Corps members will again be asked to assist Commission

members in the morning; everyone will meet at the boat launch at the end of County Road at 8:00 am. Trails will be cleared, new conservation signs will be put up, pollinator seeds will be planted along with other related work.

- Mattabeseck Stewardship Monitoring Report for DWGW – Lefebvre mentioned the annual stewardship monitoring report of the Mattabeseck Wildlife Corridor required for the Drinking Water/Ground Water Trust Fund. Drouin will complete the report that is due by Dec. 31, 2023.
- Merrimack Conservation Partnership – Dickler reported she is filing an application for conservation signs for Mattabeseck Wildlife Corridor similar to ones received for the Contoocook Conservation Complex. Mattabeseck is one of the headwaters of the Contoocook River and thus eligible for these type of signs. Funds (approximately \$562 or 25% of the cost) for Rindge signs will be paid from the Conservation Fund.
- Chamber Newsletter Article – Dickler recommended topics for the Chamber's newsletter that would include mention of the 2023 tours, work by the Conservation Corps and a future full-moon walk at Tetreault (see below).
- Wetlands Rules Update – Drouin shared the latest information about updated NH DES Wetlands Rules provided by NHACC.
- 2024 Budget – Drouin reviewed the 2023 budget expenditures-to-date and projected expenditures for 2024 in preparation for review by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee.
- Hat choices – Lefebvre will work Dickler on a second hat choice to replace the green type that had been discontinued.
- Mattabeseck Wildlife Corridor Management plan – Lefebvre reported that Rick Van de Poll had already developed a management plan that was shared with the Commission. He did not think another plan is needed at this time but Rick's will be further reviewed next spring.
- Watershed Presentation – Dickler will work on a speaker for this presentation in early 2024.
- Possible dates for full Moonlight Walks – Dickler explained the various full-moons that are expected in the coming months. The Commission decided to conduct the walk on January 27 (7:00 p.m.) at Tetreault Park/Town Forest. It is hoped that the library's telescope will be available for use.

Announcements/Reminders

The Commission expressed its gratitude to Janice Fiandaca for her donation to the Conservation Fund in recognition of the Commission's work in behalf of residents.

POOR Meat Raffle – Sat. Dec. 2, 1:30 – 6:00 pm at VFW on Route 202, Jaffrey, **need 8 people -- NEED NAMES**

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes for October 9, 2023

Simeone motioned and Mellor seconded to approve the Minutes of October 9, 2023. The Commission approved the motion with Desruisseaux, Rogers, Rubendall and Dickler abstaining.

NEXT MEETING: November 13, 2023 – only 2 meetings remain for the current year

Schedule of 2023 Meetings: Dec. 11, January 8. 2024

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Al Lefebvre