



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

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

Meeting Convened at 7:02 pm

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

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

OFFICIAL NOTICES

- NHDES 2023-00474, Amended Shoreline Impact Permit, Map 48 Lot 76, 90 & 92 Thayer Rd., David Temple – Reviewed by the Commission
- Wetlands Permit Application, Map 18 Lot 9, 28 Lapham Lane, Tom Delicato – Reviewed by the Commission
- NHDES 2023-02948, Receipt of Shoreland Permit Application, Map 14 Lot 49, 26 Lachance Dr., The A to Z Trust– Reviewed by the Commission
- NHDES 2023-02513, Wetlands & Non-site Specific Permit, Map 99 Lot 99-2, Off of Route 202, Algave LLC (Ezra Ketola) – Reviewed by the Commission
- NHDES 2023-02962, Received Shoreland Permit Application, Map 14 Lots 51 & 34, 22 Lachance Dr., Paul LaRoche– Reviewed by the Commission

OLD BUSINESS

- RCC Playscape partnership – Mellor indicated he had spoken with Dan Bemis about the need to complete the project before the end of the year. The Commission has received invoices from Dig-Z for work that was completed and paid by the Commission. Mellor and Drouin complemented Dig-Z for the work it did at the park which was very much appreciated. An invoice from the RCC will be sent to Bemis for the Recreation Committee's share of the cost. A Playscape opening needs to be take place by the end of the year.
- Tetreault Park update - Playground chips, electricity, signage, filling holes, etc.- Mellor reported that playground chips still need to be spread at the StumpWalk and elsewhere if needed; parts for the tunnel slide need to be stored under the cabin for the winter. On Nov. 12, Mellor and Desruisseaux spent time chipping limbs and trees that were stacked near the cabin. S-R Ellis Electric has completed its electrical work while Eversource is working on a date to install electrical wires with a possible pole light. Holes at the back of the cabin need to be filled-in. Drouin and Desruisseaux will install the door the day after Thanksgiving. Lefebvre will obtain a temporary sign for the park entrance area.
- Tetreault Cabin Plan Subcommittee plans to meet after New Year.
- Budget Update – Drouin reviewed his meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee. He explained to them the need for plowing and grounds maintenance at the different conservation areas in the coming year. He indicated they understood the need and would seek option for solutions.
- Nov. 11 Workday at Contoocook update, cleanup & signage – Drouin reported that the Commission had a very successful workday with six Commission members (Mellor, Drouin, Desruisseaux, Dickler, Friedman and Lefebvre) and eight Conservation Corps members (Brooks Rogers, Dwight Schenck, Stephanie Cox Suarez, Pat Martin, Jean Caputi, and Matt

Remigy). Jeff Dickler also volunteered assistance though not a member). Trails were cleared, piles of limbs were chipped, new signage was installed and planting pollinator seeds. These members contributed about 34 hours of volunteer community service Saturday morning to improve the Contoocook Conservation complex.

- Sno-Moles work update at Town Forest - Drouin reported that the Sno-Moles had worked on a new trail off the Rails-to-Trails through the Town Forest and had installed culverts in marshy areas, removed trees where needed and spread chips along the Rails-to-Trail area. They will complete work in the weeks ahead. The work they did will improve conditions for walkers in the future.
- Conservation Award – Lefebvre distributed a proposed nomination form for people to use to nominate a person, business, donor or organization for recognition for outstanding contributions to Rindge conservation/ecology. Commission members offered suggestions for changes and Lefebvre will refine the form for the next meeting.
- Miriam Hunt Driveway & Parking area – Drouin announced that the driveway work at Miriam Hunt Town Forest was completed and will allow better and safer access to the entrance and parking area; residents will no longer need to park along Route 119. The driveway was scraped of rock and other material by Paul Knight of Sunrise Landscaping and Marti Kulla and who later spread gravel and material from Rindge Stone & Gravel.
- Monitoring of conservation lands – Drouin reported that he had completed an end-of-the year mowing at the Ford Family Wildlife Preserve.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mattabeseck Trail Review – Rubendall with Mellor reviewed the trail map at Mattabeseck and suggested closing some trails listed on the RCC map creating trails at other locations. Lefebvre suggested developing a broader plan for all Mattabeseck trails and Dickler was concerned that new trails do not interfere with wildlife and ecology. Trails will be discussed more at a future meeting. All agreed that a new map with trails need to be created.
- NHACC Conference Update – Lefebvre reviewed sessions he attended at the NHACC conference on Nov. 4 in Pembroke that included "NH Stonewall Mapper & Lidar", "Trails for People and Wildlife" and "Restoring Streams Naturally with Wood."
- Hat choices – Lefebvre shared the map catalogue with a recommended selection for the Commission. It was decided to order ten of the new selection and seven more of the orange type.

Announcements/Reminders

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

So far: David, Rob, Phil, Deni, Jeff D., Desruisseaux and Friedman also volunteered. Lefebvre will ask Corps members for assistance at the raffle.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes for October 26, 2023

Desruisseaux motioned and Dickler seconded to approve the Minutes of October 26, 2023. The Commission approved the motion with Friedman abstaining.

NEXT MEETING: December 11, 2023

Schedule of 2024 Meetings: January 8, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes recorded by Lefebvre.