

TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
6 Pinnacle Hill Road, NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256

July 10, 2023

Members Present:

Regular Members: Mr. Bob Pollock, Mrs. Deb Pendergast, Mr. Maurice Schofield, Ms. Maggie Stark (Alternate), Mr. Tim Young (potential Member)

Others Present:

None

1. Call to order:

Mr. Pollock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Pollock advised that Mrs. Martinez has stepped down from the Commission and as Vice Chairman he will be acting Chairman at this time. Mr. Pollock appointed Ms. Stark to vote in place of Mrs. Martinez.

2. Minutes

-Review of 1/19/23, 3/13/2023 & 5/8/2023

Mr. Schofield made a motion to accept the 1/9/2023 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Pollock – the vote was unanimous. Mr. Pollock made a motion to accept the 3/13/2023 minutes as written, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast – vote was unanimous. Ms. Stark made a motion to accept the 5/8/2023 minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Pollock – the vote was unanimous.

Correspondence

None

3. DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF CONSERVATION COMMISSION BYLAWS; VOTE TO AMEND BYLAWS

3.) Mr. Pollock read the proposed changes to the By-Laws. No additional changes or amendments to previous discussions were made. **Mrs. Pendergast moved to accept the revision as read, Mr. Schofield seconded. Vote to accept was unanimous.** Ms. Stark asked if, in light of Mrs. Martinez stepping down, following the new By-Laws would mean she will now automatically become a permanent member. Mr. Pollock stated that a copy of new, updated By-Laws will need to be sent to the Selectmen for review first.

4. STATUS UPDATE ON OPEN PROJECTS

4.) Mr. Pollock stated he had reached out to Mrs. Martinez with questions on open projects:

- Location of the key to the Kelley Drake property gate – Mrs. Martinez indicated she would drop off the key at the Town Office.
- Bald Ledge easement status – Matthew Morris is the new contact. Next step is meeting with him and once CC and LRCC agree with easement language, easement can then be sent to Legal for final review.
- Straits Road Property – there needs to be a meeting between CC, legal counsel and Colin Brown.
- By-Laws – addressed earlier in this meeting. Mr. Pollock will send copy of updated By-Laws to Town Clerk and Selectmen
- Digital information relative to the Open Space Master Plan – Land Use Administrator Mrs. Vose has this. The Open Space Master Plan needs to be updated to include the Bedrosian property (Tax Map R6, Lot 3) and then sent to the Planning Board for acceptance as it is referenced as part of their Master Plan.

**5. DISCUSSION NEW
HAMPTON NATURE TRAIL
MAINTENANCE
FACILITATION;
VOLUNTEERS AND TRAIL
MAINTENANCE**

5.) The Commission discussed KDCA, Bald Ledge and the Snake River properties in relation to clean up. Mr. Pollock related the history of the Snake River property for the benefit of the new members. Board members stated that they would make site visits and evaluate what needs to be cleaned up. Ms. Stark will visit the KDCA, Mrs. Pendergast will visit Bald Ledge and Mr. Schofield will evaluate Snake River. Mr. Pollock advised that if additional volunteers participate, they need to complete waivers of liability which are available at the Town Office.

It was noted that the gate on KDCA has been open and since it is only supposed to be open during hunting season, it needs to be locked. Mr. Schofield suggested that the gate may be open for brush hogging and asked if that has been scheduled yet. Mr. Pollock said it has not and that the Selectmen require cost comparison from three providers when hiring someone to do the work. The Commission discussed using a bid form to define scope of work and request quotes. The Commission recognized that Mr. William Murray did an excellent job on the Bald Ledge property and they would like to send a letter of thanks.

**6. CONSERVATION AREA
MONITORING**

6.) CC members discussed a potential Fall project to locate and view all CC areas, define property lines and update tags. Mr. Schofield stated that the Scribner property on Dixon Hill Road needs to be checked.

**7. PROPOSED GROUND
WATER ORDINANCE.**

7.) Mr. Pollock stated this should be part of the Planning Board Master Plan but it appears to be low priority for them at this time.

8. OTHER BUSINESS.

8.) Other Business

- Mr. Pollock stated that Eversource was asked previously for Construction monitoring reports on their pole replacements in their right-of-way. Those were received today and he provided them to the Commission.
- Pat Schlesinger was very active with the Conservation Commission for many years and at retirement had asked for an oak tree to be planted on the Kelley Drake property. This had been done, but the tree has died. The Commission agreed that a new oak tree needs to be planted to replace it.
- Mr. Pollock made the Commission aware that the Selectmen have chosen to begin to divest themselves of tax deeded property. Under the RSA, such properties are supposed to be sent to the Town's boards and commissions to make sure there is no Town need for those properties. There is a property off of Old Bristol Road, the Egan property (Tax Map R13, Lot 9), which in the past was voted on by Warrant Article to be kept as Conservation Property. Mr. Pollock assembled the history of this property and presented it to Selectman Drake so the Selectmen would be aware this property cannot be sold. There was discussion about the benefit of acquiring properties that are connected to other conservation land. Mr. Pollock spoke about a property on Blake Hill Rd which is for sale and would be desirable to acquire however it is out of price range.

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- Availability of members and sharing of contact information was discussed. Mr. Pollock reminded that if more than two members converse together, that constitutes a meeting.
- CC members discussed placing an item on the agenda in relation to acting in an advisory capacity to the Planning Board. The PB is currently proposing expanding the Mixed-Use zone which would allow expanded uses in the Pemigewasset Lake and Smoke Rise areas. Commission members agreed that it would be appropriate put add this to the agenda and work to formulate an advisory statement to the PB.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Stark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast to adjourn meeting at 8:04 PM. Vote was unanimous.

**NEXT MEETING
SCHEDULED:**

Next meeting was not scheduled at this time.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tamara Van Lenten*