

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

August 14, 2023

**Members Present:** Regular Members: Mr. Bob Pollock, Mrs. Deborah Pendergast, Mr. Maurice Schofield, Mr. Tim Young

**Others Present:** None

**1. Call to order:** Mr. Pollock called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Minutes**  
**-Review of 7/10/23** minutes  
***Mr. Schofield made a motion to accept the 7/10/2023 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast – the vote was unanimous.***

**Correspondence**  
Correspondence from DOT came before the Planning Board and Mr. Pollock had asked that it be referred to the CC. A bridge maintenance project is planned to the bridge located on 132 which carries over an unnamed stream near the New Hampton Fish Hatchery. All work will be within the DOT ROW. Questions asked on the correspondence were discussed. Mr. Pollock will reply to the questions and note that there is concern about any potential for water contamination from project runoff going to the Fish Hatchery.

A copy of an incomplete Dredge & Fill Permit which was submitted to DES by Scott Fawcett for property at 101 Old Bristol Rd was received. No action necessary.

A list of requirements from the Wetlands Bureau was received for the logging project on Upper Oxbow which is being conducted at the Hager property (Tax Map R9 Lot 12). Mr. Pollock stated the Conservation Commission is supposed to observe the property and communicate to DES if any of the items on the list are seen to need follow up.

Mr. Pollock provided Quarterly Financial information for the CC for review. Mr. Young asked if there was an operating budget. Mr. Schofield said he though there is usually a Warrant Article requesting \$1,000.00 to be put in the Conservation Fund from taxation. Mr. Pollock said that if Current Use tax was received a portion of that money also goes into the Conservation Fund.

**3. KELLY DRAKE FIELD MOWING AND CEMETARY**

3.) Mr. Schofield said that Mr. Garret Gilpatrick has been mowing the KDCA fields since Mrs. Schlessinger was Chairperson and has charged \$600.00 consistently. When Mr. Tyler Simpson was Chairperson, there was concentration on trying to beautify the cellar hole and apple tree areas and Mr. Dean Huckins has mowed those areas since at a cost of \$150.00. The Commission discussed these being reasonable prices and felt the providers are experienced with the areas and that it would be hard to get a better price by requesting other bids. Mr. Pollock and Mrs. Pendergast discussed if a baseline price existed under which bids would not have to be solicited.

Mr. Pollock asked Mr. Schofield to reach out to Mr. Huckins to have mowing done to include access to the Drake Cemetery. A resident has contacted Mr. Pollock and said he is planning his funeral and that the Drake cemetery is currently inaccessible.

Mr. Schofield will reach out to schedule the mowing.

**4. CHASE ROAD PROPERTY,  
EGAN PROPERTY AND  
DIXON HILL PROPERTY  
RECOMMENDATION TO  
SELECTMEN**

4.) Mr. Pollock distributed information about the Egan, Dixon Hill and Chase Rd properties which are being considered for tax sale and referenced RSA 41:14-a which deals with disposal of town owned property and RSA 80:80 that deals with sale of tax deeded property.

Mr. Pollock said he had spoken with Selectman Drake and asked procedurally how the Selectmen were handling these sales. Selectman Drake said they had followed RSA 80:80.

The Chase Road property (R6, Lot 5) is surrounded on three sides by another property which was given by gift to the town for conservation purposes. Question arose as to what value the Town would receive from a buyer versus keeping that property. Mr. Schofield noted that the abutter may be interested in purchasing to add it to his property. Mr. Young stated this property is close to Dolloff Brook. Mr. Pollock said that Meredith, Sanbornton and Center Harbor have done extensive studies on the water quality of Lake Waukegan and have determined they want to protect Dolloff Brook and any other tributaries into Lake Waukegan. This has an impact on the whole watershed all the way down to the Winnepesaukee River. Mrs. Pendergast said it made sense to add this property to the adjoining piece.

Dixon Hill property (R19, Lot 3) abuts Scribner-Fellows State Forest. It is a nice piece of contiguous open space. It is also listed in our Open Space Plan as a Conservation Easement.

Egan Property (R13, Lot 9). Mr. Pollock said that in 1988 Article 20 discussed saving the Egan Property for forestry conservation purposes. An amendment was made to the Article and it was voted to maintain the property in town inventory 'at this time'. It was not set aside in perpetuity and a deed was never recorded stating that the property should be set aside for conservation purposes. A tax deed is all that has been recorded.

Mr. Young stated the map which he was viewing needs to be clarified in regards to the lots that the conservation easements are located on.

Mr. Pollock noted that the Egan property has not been listed on the Open Space plan.

Mr. Pollock noted that in his past experience at another municipality, if the CC recommended a piece of tax titled property be retained for conservation purposes, back taxes were paid from a Conservation Trust Fund. It will have to be seen if the Selectmen want restitution.

***A motion was made by Mrs. Pendergast to approach the town to have the Egan property, the Dixon Hill property and the Chase Road property retained by the town for conservation purposes. Mr. Schofield seconded. Vote was unanimous.***

Mr. Young asked what the proposal to the Selectmen will look like. Mr. Pollock stated once the minutes are written, the Selectmen can be notified of the Commission's vote to ask that these properties be set aside and put on the Town Warrant for March 2024 for Conservation purposes. Mr. Young and Mrs. Pendergast suggested that a proposal with graphic and photos may help to communicate why the properties are desired. Mr. Pollock wants to notify the Selectmen before the next Conservation Commission meeting.

**5. BALD LEDGE EASEMENT**

5.) Mr. Pollock is going to invite the involved parties to attend the next Conservation Commission Meeting to wrap this issue up.

**6. STRAITS ROAD  
PROPERTY/PROPERTY LINE  
ISSUE**

6.) Straits Road property to remain on the agenda. The Commission needs to meet with Colin Brown and Town Counsel to address the property line adjustment.

**7. GRANTS AND CC FUNDING  
FOR 2023/2024**

7.) Mrs. Pendergast will be looking into this at some time.

**8. DISCUSSION ON  
PROPOSED GROUND WATER  
ORDINANCE**

8.) The Ground Water Ordinance will come into play when the Zoning Ordinance is rewritten. Mr. Pollock said that he would like to submit a letter from the Conservation Commission to the Planning Board regarding concerns about the proposed re-zoning along Route 104.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS.**

9.) Other Business

- Mr. Schofield inquired about the Snake River property and the possibility of clearing a walking path to the water to enable residents to carry a kayak down for water access. Mr. Pollock stated that the CC could decide to do that. He related the history of the CC's efforts to create a trail system and to have the Japanese Knotweed removed and the challenges that arose with DES and abutters.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Schofield made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Pendergast to adjourn meeting at 8:46 PM. Vote was unanimous.**

**NEXT MEETING  
SCHEDULED:**

Next meeting was not scheduled at this time.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Tamara Van Lenten*