

Meeting Minutes

Milford Conservation Commission

January 13, 2022, Milford BOS Meeting Room

Present: Andy Hughes, John Yule, Andy Seale, Rodney DellaFelice, Marie Nickerson

Meeting **called to order** at 7:02 p.m., John announced we have a quorum and that the meeting is being recorded. Introductions were requested by Marie, so she had the names right as she was acting as secretary for this meeting.

Item 1: Meeting Minutes Approval was tabled until next month because not enough of the board present was at the last meeting, therefore not able to vote on its approval.

Item 2: 4th Saturday Hike reminder, Chris had previously mentioned that she would be willing to lead this hike. Several other members showed interest in visiting this area as well.

Item 3: Membership Renewal, NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists, \$30.00. No one was in opposition to continuation of the membership. Andy S. made a motion to approve spending \$30.00 for the purpose of NHANRS membership renewal and it was seconded by Andy H. Approved.

Item 4: Accept donations. \$480.00 has been received in memory of Hub Seward for the Milford Conservation Fund. Donors were thanked on camera. Andy S. made the motion to approve the donations, and Andy H. seconded it. All were in favor.

Donation from Ilya Bass (\$100.00) was received for the Granite Town Rail Trail. Ilya was thanked by the board, Andy H. made a motion to accept the donation for this purpose, and it was seconded by Andy S. All were in favor and the motions passed.

Item 5: Elm Tree Donation was offered to Milford Conservation Commission by Bill Widmer of Amherst. The letter from Mr. Widmer was available for all members to review. Questions were raised as to whether the Conservation Commission is the party who should be accepting this generous gift on behalf of the town. Mr. Widmer would like to see the trees planted on Elm Street and included photos of the stone pavilion by Elm Street in that area as they would have high visibility. Some of the issues that came up are the fact that the pavilion is overseen by the Recreation Department. Another Question is who would care for them because young trees need a lot of regular watering to become established, especially in their first year. There was discussion as to whether the Milford Garden Club would be willing to help care for them, or if the Rec Dept. would be responsible, but it was decided by the board to accept the tree gift with the contingency to work with other town organizations to find the perfect place for them, an area of no concern of vandalism, good visibility, and be sure they will be cared for, especially during the first critical year or two or until they are established.

A motion was made by Andy H. to accept this generous offer contingent upon our ability to work with other town organizations, and it was seconded by Marie.

NOTE: There is a deadline to reply to Mr. Widmer regarding his offer so that he can order these special trees for spring delivery. It was noted that our coordinator should reply to Mr. Widmer by February 20th per his request.

Item 6: Warrant Article 2022 was discussed again as the amount set aside for the CC from the taxes collected was already approved by the CC to go from \$20,000 to \$25,000 but that proposal has not moved forward. It is anticipated that there could be many issues with that request to our taxpayers this year. As the CC does have funds at this time, it was decided to let the request for the additional \$5,000 be dropped this year.

Item 7: The Maclellan Conservation Easement proposal was approved by the BOS at their December 28th meeting. So noted.

Item 8: Nothing on this line. Obviously an error but the board enjoyed a good laugh and decided it didn't need further discussion.

Item 9, Reports: BOSCE permit application is still under review.

Town Forests: John briefly discussed that he must sign a document again, in a different place. Comment was made that the deposit was received and is approximately 1/3 of the total amount expected from the harvest but in writing up the minutes, the secretary does not recall that the acceptance of the deposit was approved. A request will be made as to whether this can be found on the recording and noted in the written minutes.

A letter to the residents of the Mayflower Hill neighborhood was offered for review. John indicated that a similar letter had been sent to Tucker Brook abutters. He feels the letter should be reviewed and perhaps some minor adjustments made. There were questions asked about whether there are specific issues regarding encroachments that have arisen. No one at this meeting knows of any specific incidents.

Wetland Overlay District Update was noted and is being kept on the agenda as a reminder to revisit this topic with the PB/ZBA in April.

Armory Rd./Rail Trail Crossing: There is nothing new to report. It was remarked by board members that since the sidewalk plan has been discontinued, we should try to find another way to improve this area of the rail trail for safety reasons. It is requested that this item be added to the agenda for the February meeting so we can discuss other avenues for improvements and funding.

Invasive Species Management Plan: Anita was not available to comment on this project, but Marie told the board that she has seen the copy of the "Ten Most Wanted" in the Google Drive and that other than some very minor cleaning up, it should be made available to the public through our town website. It is expected that minor cosmetic issues such as typestyle, etc., would be solved in the process of getting the document online. It will be asked of the coordinator to proceed with this so we can see how much interest there is in this project and whether we will continue adding to it, etc.

Joint Land Use Committee to discuss possible edits to the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regs- No comment.

Open Subdivisions- Place holder to check for changes: No changes since last meeting.

Brookston Conservation Easement: No news. Still pending approval.

Item 10: Work session date of January 27 should be kept. We have placed the Conservation Plan on the agenda. Chris will be asked to make sure the Conservation Plan documents are in Google Drive.

Item 11: Interdepartmental Review, no items to discuss.

*At this point, Andy H. requested that the recorded session be ended, and camera be turned off at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Discussion off camera was regarding the flooding of the area at Heron Pond. The culvert was dammed by beavers and emergency remediation measures had to be taken by town employees to prevent the area from flooding and avoid property damage. It was noted that the culvert in question is NOT one placed by the Conservation Commission. This pipe should be lowered to avoid further problems. Questions regarding whether we can use funds from the timber harvest can be used to have Skip (installer) check the beaver deceivers on a regular basis. There has also been turtle mortality in the deceivers that are improperly placed or that have shifted since installation that we are very concerned about (and this unfortunate outcome has been observed in beaver deceivers in other towns).

Andy will make sure the RSAs pertaining to use of funds from forestry management by the CC are in the Google Drive for us to review and we will follow up with the recommendation that Skip be hired to check and maintain the deceivers/culverts and explore options for payment to him for his services.

Item 12: Motion to adjourn was made by Andy S. at 7:57 p.m. and seconded by Rodney.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie G. Nickerson