

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
August 10, 2020
APPROVED MINUTES**

Lenore Clark read the following:

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically. In accordance with RSA 91-A: 2, III, the Board has 7 members joining the meeting remotely, which a public body has the authorization to allow. At this time I would like to take a roll-call vote of ALL members present. For those participating virtually, please indicate your location and if you have any other individuals present in the room with you.

Members Present: Roll call: Lenore Clark – yes (acknowledged no one is present with her), Chair, Dan Coons – yes (acknowledged no one is present with him), Vice-Chair, Dave Senecal – yes (acknowledged no one is present with him), Selectmen's Representative, Art Slocum – yes (acknowledged no one is person present with him), Brian Gifford – yes (acknowledged no one is present with him), Jeff Marchand – yes (acknowledged no one is present with him), Warren Muir – yes (acknowledged someone is present with him), Members, Nancy Byrd – yes (acknowledged no one is present with her), Alternate.

Votes taken during this meeting will be via roll call vote for ALL members.

In accordance with Emergency Order #12, for members of the public, this is to confirm that we are:

1. Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means through GoToMeeting. All members of the public and Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the GoToMeeting platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #+1 (646) 749-3122 followed by the audio access code 870-687-373, or by video following the directions on the Town of Wolfeboro Website posted on the home page under the Virtual Town Meeting Login Information page.
2. Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting; we previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting in-person or using GoToMeeting and in, and instructions are provided on the Town of Wolfeboro website at wolfeboronh.us on the Virtual Town Meeting Login Information page.
3. Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access; if anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or computer, please immediately call 603-486-2692 OR email Hendrickson.jeeann@gmail.com. In the event that the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Members Absent: Ed Roundy, Member, Sarah Silk, Alternate.

Staff Present: Lee Ann Hendrickson, Administrative Secretary.

Chairman Clark opened the virtual meeting at 6:32 pm.

Chairman Clark appointed Nancy Byrd, Alternate, to sit in for Ed Roundy, Member.

I. Consideration of Minutes

July 13, 2020

Corrections: Page 3, 11th & 13th paragraphs; change "fisherman" to "fishermen"
Page 5, E., 4th paragraph; strike "glossed over" and replace with "not fully understood"

It was moved by Nancy Byrd and seconded by Brian Gifford to approve the July 13, 2020 Wolfboro Conservation Commission minutes as amended. Roll call vote: Lenore Clark - yes, Dan Coons - abstain, Dave Senecal – abstain, Art Slocum - yes, Warren Muir – yes, Nancy Byrd – yes, Brian Gifford – yes, Jeff Marchand - yes. The motion passed (6-0-2).

July 31, 2020

Corrections: Page 3, both motions; add “yes” after “Warren Muir –“

It was moved by Brian Gifford and seconded by Dan Coons to approve the July 31, 2020 Wolfboro Conservation Commission minutes as amended. Roll call vote: Lenore Clark - yes, Dan Coons - yes, Dave Senecal – abstain, Art Slocum - yes, Warren Muir – yes, Nancy Byrd – yes, Brian Gifford – yes, Jeff Marchand - abstain. The motion passed (6-0-2).

II. Discussion Items

a. **2021 Budget**

Lenore Clark stated the Commission is being asked to maintain level funding.

Dan Coons asked if there are any additional anticipated expenses related to Other Property Series.

Staff stated there could be snowplowing expenses prior to the end of the year and there will be a third mowing expense for Goodwins Basin in 2021 in the amount of \$250.

Dave Senecal stated an increase can be requested if additional funds are needed. He stated members of the BOS and/or Budget Committee will question the balance of the conservation land fund.

It was moved by Dan Coons and seconded by Brian Gifford to increase Other Property Series by \$250.

Discussion of the motion:

Warren Muir stated the Commission has been criticized for not being good stewards of the conserved lands and recommended an increase in the budget to assist with stewarding the properties. He stated there are a variety of tasks that need to be completed however, the Commission is limited to the funds within the operating budget. He recommended increasing Other Property Series to \$3,000 (an additional \$1,300) rather than increasing it by \$250. The Commission discussed Mr. Muir’s comments and the costs related to addressing the management of invasive species. The Committee agreed to put forth two motions; one motion to address a new line item request for invasive species management and another motion to increase Other Property Series to \$3,000 to assist with annual maintenance of conserved properties.

Dan Coons withdrew his motion. Brian Gifford withdrew his second.

It was moved by Warren Muir and seconded by Brian Gifford to increase 01-46110-490, Other Property Series, from \$1,700 to \$3,000. Roll call vote: Lenore Clark - yes, Dan Coons - yes, Dave Senecal – abstain, Art Slocum - yes, Warren Muir – yes, Nancy Byrd – yes, Brian Gifford – yes, Jeff Marchand - yes. The motion passed (7-0-1).

It was moved by Brian Gifford and seconded by Jeff Marchand to request a new budget line titled Invasive Species Management in the amount of \$10,000. Roll call vote: Lenore Clark - yes, Dan

Coons - yes, Dave Senecal – abstain, Art Slocum - yes, Warren Muir – yes, Nancy Byrd – yes, Brian Gifford – yes, Jeff Marchand - yes. The motion passed (7-0-1).

b. Whiteface Mountain

Lenore Clark stated Attorney Cowles has finalized the conservation easement deed; noting the final edits were approved by the Land Bank and Lakes Region Conservation Trust. She stated the easement deed will be provided to the Town Manager to be forwarded to the BOS' counsel, Attorney Mark Puffer. She stated a public hearing will be scheduled following Attorney Puffer's review.

The Commission agreed to tentatively schedule the public hearing for 9/2/20, time to be determined.

Relative to the Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Meissner for the parking area at Whiteface Mountain, she stated the MOU is in effect for a period of five years. She stated the owner, Mr. Meissner, is contemplating selling the property.

Dan Coons stated Mr. Meissner owns three parcels that abut the Whiteface Mountain property and recommended purchasing two of the properties. He stated he believes the Land Bank is favorable to providing financial assistance with the purchase. He stated one of the lots is landlocked and the adjacent property to the land locked parcel has frontage on Browns Ridge Road.

Lenore Clark asked if Lakes Region Conservation Trust would also contribute towards the purchase.

Dan Coons stated he has already spoken to LRCT; noting they could not commit to such as they are in the middle of other campaigns. He stated LRCT could possible assist with grant writing.

Jeff Marchand recommended forwarding a copy of Conserving Your Land to the property owner.

c. Ryefield Marsh

No update.

d. Trask Mountain Access

Lenore Clark stated Aiden Haughey is not pleased that people are driving fast on Old Route 28 after he improved the road and has subsequently installed a gate. She stated counsel has informed Matt Sullivan that Mr. Haughey has the right to install a gate however, does not have the right to lock the gate and restrict access to the Town's property.

Warren Muir asked if people would know if the gate can be opened.

Dan Coons replied probably not.

Lenore Clark stated Wolfboro Single Track Alliance advertises the trails at Trask Mountain on their website.

The Commission discussed installing signage relative to speed and closing the gate however, tabled developing the language for the signs.

The Commission also discussed advertising/posting of conservation properties; noting Peter Goodwin could map the conserved public lands. The Commission discussed posting the properties on the Commission's webpage of the Town's website, producing a brochure and trail maps.

e. Wolfeboro Waters

Warren Muir stated a lot of assessment activity and a wide range of measurements and analysis is being done in Winter Harbor. He stated the Carry Beach mitigation proposal was approved by the Planning Board and is out to bid. He stated the Communications Committee hasn't met since February and noted their focus is on the Wolfeboro Waters website.

Art Slocum stated the Communications Committee is writing an article for the newspaper explaining what the Committee is all about.

Nancy Byrd stated the lighting at Carry Beach made viewing the recent astronomical event unsuitable and asked whether the lighting could be turned off for those events.

III. Other Business

Drew Lot

Staff informed the Commission that she emailed Dan Stepanauskas and informed him the Commission voted to approve his cost estimate to mark the boundaries of the Drew lot.

Rust Pond Access

Dan Coons stated he walked the Elvira Avery Heirs property with NH Fish & Game; noting the area is not appropriate for a boat ramp however, is conducive to hand carry a boat.

Meeting Time

Lenore Clark stated there will continue to be a conflict in the meeting time on the second Monday of the month because the Cable Franchise Committee has booked those dates through 2021. She asked the Committee for optional meeting times and dates.

Following further discussion, the Commission agreed that the Chair would speak to the Town Manager and request the original meeting date and time for the Commission's meetings to be re-established; noting the Commission has been meeting on the second Monday of each month for 19+ years.

IV. Correspondence

The Commission received the following correspondence; NHDES Wetlands Bureau notifications.

It was moved by Dan Coons and seconded by Brian Gifford to adjourn the August 10, 2020 Conservation Commission meeting. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Lenore Clark - yes, Dan Coons - yes, Dave Senecal - yes, Art Slocum - yes, Warren Muir - yes, Nancy Byrd - yes, Brian Gifford - yes, Jeff Marchand - yes. The motion passed (8-0).

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Hendrickson

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