

**TOWN OF OSS�PEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2023**

Minutes have been recorded for the convenience of summarization by Laura Nash, Planning Board Secretary and are deleted once minutes are approved; any amendments to the minutes are noted in ***bold & italic*** type.

Call to Order: Marie McConarty called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call: Marie McConarty- Chair, Ralph Buchanan – Vice Chair, and Krystal Eldridge

Meeting Minutes: Review to approve meeting minutes of January 18, 2022

A **Motion** by Buchanan to approve the meeting minutes of January 18, 2022. Marie McConarty seconded. All others vote in favor. K. Eldridge abstained since she was absent. **Motion passed.**

Buchanan introduced Keith and Pam Shufelt, who are potentially interested in becoming members of the Conservation Commission. But it won't be until sometime in the spring because they are not residents of Ossipee at this time.

Guest Speakers:

- Haley Williams of Ameri-Corp Group and Jill Emerson of GMCG Water Quality Division
- Edwina Bosse of Friends of Constitution Park

New Business:

- **GMCG - 2022 Water Quality Report:** Jill Emerson – Water Quality Coordinator and Haley Williams presented the 2022 Water Quality Report. Haley Williams spoke about the Rivers Field Sampling Parameters for the Town of Ossipee, which can be found on the GMCG website: <https://gmcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Ossipee-Water-Quality-Report.pdf>

Water Quality Standards & Allowable Limits:

Based on NHDES and EPA Criteria - Each site monitored will vary slightly due to differences in geology, plant life, site characteristics, etc. Anything above is considered “nuisance levels”

- **Total Phosphorus (TP):** Valuable nutrient, alongside Nitrogen, for plant development-High levels indicate elevated decomposition (i.e.. **sewage inputs**) - The standards and allowable limits is (TP) < 30 µg/L
- **Turbidity:** Clarity of the fluid-Determined by the amount of suspended particulates. The standards and allowable limits is < 10 NTU
- **Temperature:** Influences the biological activity, plant growth, rate of chemical reactions, DO levels. The standards and allowable limits is – No standard but monitored for changes.
- **pH:** Pure water is 7 (neutral), Most water in NH is slightly acidic (~6.5), Optimal levels to support aquatic organisms: 6.5 -8.2. The standards and allowable limits is 6 – 8, Preferably closer to 6.5.

- **Dissolved Oxygen (DO):** Measure of how much oxygen is available for aquatic organisms, Different species require different DO levels. The standards and allowable limits is 6 - 11 mg/L 75% - 120%
- **Conductivity:** Ability of water to pass an electrical charge, Based on the amount of positively (Mg+, Ca+) or negatively (Cl-, NO3) charged elements (i.e.. **road salt runoff**) The standards and allowable limits is < 100 µS/cm.

The following sites were tested and status monitored:

GO - 1 Beech River: Parameters collected:

pH:	Status is Stable
Turbidity:	Status is Stable
TP:	Moderate levels = Average quality
Temperature:	Dissolved Oxygen (DO) has an inverse relationship with temperature: as temperature increases, DO decreases.
Conductivity:	Conductivity shows a series of higher values at GO – 1 in 2022 compared to 2017 - 2021. Values are below 100 uS/cm indicating relatively good (normal) water quality in respect to salt concentrations.
DO	New Hampshire State DO standard for Class A waters is above 75% during the months GMCG tests.

GO – 2 Frenchman Brook: Parameters collected:

pH:	Status is Stable
Turbidity:	Status is Stable
TP:	Low levels = Good quality
Temperature:	Dissolved Oxygen (DO) has an inverse relationship with temperature: as temperature increases, DO decreases.
Conductivity:	Conductivity shows a series of higher, more inconsistent values at GO-2 in 2022 compared to 2017 - 2021. Values are below 100 uS/cm indicating relatively good (normal) water quality in respect to salt concentrations. (i.e.. Route 16 salt runoff)
DO	New Hampshire State DO standard for Class A waters is above 75% during the months GMCG tests.
Surface Water Concentration	
Ammonium	Exceeds the standard limit and increasing (i.e.. human waste)
Chloride	Above the 10 mg/L standard for freshwater, and showing a continuous increase
Calcium	Stable, yet slowly increasing and approaching the standard limit

GO – 5 Bearcamp River: Parameters collected:

pH:	Status is Stable and showing a decline and becoming unstable as of 2022
Turbidity:	Status is Stable
TP:	Low levels = Good quality
Temperature:	Dissolved Oxygen (DO) has an inverse relationship with temperature: as temperature increases, DO decreases.
Conductivity:	Conductivity shows a series of higher values at GO – 5 in 2022 compared to 2017 - 2021. Values are below 100 uS/cm indicating relatively good (normal) water quality in respect to salt concentrations.

DO	New Hampshire State DO standard for Class A waters is above 75% during the months GMCG tests. This indicates little change in DO levels. All values meet the 6.0 mg/L requirement.
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GO – 7 Ossipee Lake Outflow: Parameters collected:

pH:	Status is Stable
Turbidity:	Status is Stable
TP:	Low levels = Good quality
Temperature:	Dissolved Oxygen (DO) has an inverse relationship with temperature: as temperature increases, DO decreases.
Conductivity:	Conductivity shows a series of higher values at GO-7 in 2022 compared to 2017-2021. Values are 7 in below 100 uS/cm indicating relatively good (normal) water quality in respect to salt concentrations.
DO	New Hampshire State DO standard for Class A waters is above 75% during the months GMCG tests. The R 2 values from 2022 show a slightly inconsistent set of values compared to the compiled 2017 -2021. This indicates some change in DO levels and unreliable data for 2022. All values meet the 6.0 mg/L requirement.
Surface Water Concentration	
Ammonium	Exceeds the standard limit and steadily increasing (i.e.. human waste)
Nitrate	Unstable and at standard limit currently; showing a steady increase into the future

OL – 4u Lovell River: Parameters collected:

pH:	Status is Stable
Turbidity:	Status is Stable
TP:	Low levels = Good quality
Temperature:	Dissolved Oxygen (DO) has an inverse relationship with temperature: as temperature increases, DO decreases.
Conductivity:	Conductivity shows a series of higher values at OL - 4u in 2022 compared to 2017-2021. Values are below 100 uS/cm indicating relatively good (normal) water quality in respect to salt concentrations.
DO	New Hampshire State DO standard for Class A waters is above 75% during the months GMCG tests. The R values from 2022 show a similar set of values compared to the compiled 2017 -2021. This indicates little change in DO levels. All values meet the 6.0 mg/L requirement.

OL – 6u Pine River: Parameters collected:

pH:	Status is Stable
Turbidity:	Status is Stable
TP:	Moderate levels = Average quality
Temperature:	Dissolved Oxygen (DO) has an inverse relationship with temperature: as temperature increases, DO decreases.
Conductivity:	Conductivity shows a series of slightly higher values at OL-6u in 2022 compared to 2017 uS/cm 2021. Values are just below 100 uS/cm, indicating water quality which is becoming a low impact concern in respect to salt concentrations. (i.e.. watching road salt runoff)

DO	New Hampshire State DO standard for Class A waters is above 75% during the months GMCG tests. The R values from 2022 show a similar set of values compared to the compiled 2017 -2021. This indicates little change in DO levels. All values meet the 6.0 mg/L requirement.
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OL – 12u Philips Brook: Parameters collected:

pH:	Status is Stable
Turbidity:	Status is Stable
TP:	Moderate levels = Average quality
Temperature:	Dissolved Oxygen (DO) has an inverse relationship with temperature: as temperature increases, DO decreases.
Conductivity:	Conductivity shows a series of higher values at OL-12u in 2022 compared to 2017- 2021. All values are above 100 uS/cm, indicating water quality is a high impact concern in respect to excessive salt concentrations. (i.e.. Route 25 salt runoff)
DO	New Hampshire State DO standard for Class A waters is above 75% during the months GMCG tests. The R 2 values from 2022 and the compiled 2017 -2021 values are highly erratic, showing no clear similarity. This indicates frequent change in DO levels, making the data fairly inconsistent. Several values fall below the 6.0 mg/L requirement.
Surface Water Concentration	
Ammonium	Exceeds the standard limit and slowly increasing (i.e.. Route 25 salt runoff)
Chloride	Above allowable the 10 mg/L limit for freshwater, and showing a slow increase

Ossipee Water Quality Summary

- GO-1
 - DO: August 2022 below 75%saturation minimum ○
- GO-2
 - Conductivity: All values('17-'22) above 100 uS/cm (low impact)
 - Ammonium & Chloride: Above allowable limit, and increasing
 - Calcium: Stable, but increasing and approaching standard limit
- GO-7
 - Ammonium: Above allowable limit, and increasing
 - Nitrate: Currently at allowable limit, and increasing
- OL-6u
 - Conductivity: At/just below 100 uS/cm (low impact), and increasing
 - DO: August and October 2022 below 75%saturation
- OL-12u
 - Conductivity: All values('17 -'22) above 100 uS/cm (high impact)

- DO: Several data points (June -Sept. 2022) below 6 mg/L and 75% saturation
- Ammonium & Chloride: Above allowable limit, and increasing

Things Ossipee can do to protect its waters:

1. Encourage residents to get their septic system checked
2. Minimize salt application on roadways, especially around bodies of water and other sensitive habitats
 - a. Brine is an equally effective and more environmentally friendly alternative
3. Maintain riparian habitats (aka Streamside Management Zones) around bodies of water
4. Use Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - a. Proper disposal of chemicals and other anthropogenic waste
5. Monitor the effectiveness of culverts in your town, and replace those posing as safety and environmental hazards

Discussion ensued over sending a copy to NHDOT. Jill Emerson stated GMCG gets a request from NHDOT to upload their information into the system. Jill Emerson stated the Town can petition NHDOT requesting to be a low salt town for state roads. Jill Emerson stated it's doable but it needs to be reviewed by NHDOT, and signed off by the Select Board approval, Superintendent of Schools approval, and Hospital approval (if in area).

Gordon Pilotte of Duncan Lake Rd. noted that Duncan Lake this past summer had cyanobacteria for the first time. Jill Emerson explained how it could be from high phosphorus levels and how to do best management practices around the lake and dealing with internal loading issues. Jill Emerson informed the commission that GMCG continues to monitor the lakes and bays from May through August.

Buchanan introduced two other potential members that included, Christine Cummings, who is a new resident of Ossipee on Island Path. She is building a new house and is a dog groomer. Buchanan then introduced Gordon Pilotte of Duncan Lake Rd., who's been a resident for approximately two-years. Gordon Pilotte is a massage therapist and is training to run the Tokyo marathon in about 4 weeks' time.

McConarty explained again that if they wish to become a member of the Conservation Commission, they need to write a letter stating their intention to become a member, send the letter to the Conservation Commission secretary, the Conservation Commission will make a recommendation and will forward to the Selectmen for final decision.

Buchanan acknowledged that GMCG has been providing water quality testing for Ossipee for about 10- years, but Jill Emerson corrected him stating they just celebrated 20 years.

Gordon Pilotte stated he is also friends with David Bertrand and the Friends of White Pond, who recently sent a letter requesting to change the excavation for water tables. Jill Emerson noted she was not apart of that but she was the one who would row out to the middle of White Pond to do water testing. Gordon Pilotte informed that there is going to be another meeting coming up and Friends of White Pond are going to submit recommendations to the Planning Board for excavation changes.

Jill Emerson stated that GMCG had conducted a culvert inspection this past summer and April 19th, 2023 they will be having a zoom meeting with NH Fish & Game and USGS to go over that data with the towns. If the Public Works Director, Selectmen or Town Administrator are interested there will be information being posted on their website. There will also be information available on how to apply for A.R.M. funding which

is through FEMA to help get the worst culverts replaced. Jill Emerson will have Tara Schroder of GMCG reach out to Matt Sawyer, Jr, Town Administrator to let him know when this zoom meeting will take place. McConarty will let Matt Sawyer and TJ Eldridge know that GMCG will be reaching out to them.

- **Edwina Bosse:** to talk about renovations to the Deer Run boardwalk Trail in Constitution Park.

Edwina Bosse spoke of gathering volunteers to help clean up the nature trails and signage at Constitution Park. Since her last visit, Friends of Constitution Park - Ossipee has officially formed as a Non-Profit Organization. They have updated the trail maps, added a kiosk, installed a disc golf course, established a dog park, tennis courts have been resurfaced with pickle ball markings and a new pavilion has been built. The Rotary Club help support a lending library on site. The Rotary Club also secured a grant to add to the pavilion. Several picnic tables will be placed in the park this spring, along with a new Constitution Park road sign. The local elementary school children participated in a logo contest for the Friends of Constitution Park – Ossipee logo banner.

This year's goal in collaboration with GMCG is to redo the Nature Interpretive Trails. The work to be done will be through grant money awarded. The big project is the Deer Run Trail, which includes the boardwalk. The boardwalk has become dilapidated over the past 20+ years and is no longer ADA compliant. Matt Coughlin of Recon Trail Design has provided a proposal to redo the trail in the amount of approximately \$250,000.00. Depending on the number of volunteers the lower the cost will be. Grant writing and fundraising will continue through 2023 with a deposit to Recon Trail Design in the summer of 2023. In 2024, depending on the number of grants received, Friends of Constitution Park – Ossipee will submit a warrant article for approximately \$50,000.00 to town voters. In Spring 2024, dismantling of the boardwalk would begin and will take approximately two years to complete.

Friends of Constitution Park – Ossipee (FOCP-O) will be forming an advisory committee with at least one member of Conservation Commission on it. FOCP-O will meet monthly beginning in the spring of 2023, time and date to be determined, and are always looking for more volunteers to help with the trail work. Friends of Constitution Park – Ossipee have met with the Town Administrator, Matt Sawyer, Jr., PWD – TJ Eldridge, and Rec. Director, Justin Chaffee on the proposed work and are aware they will need to apply for a wetlands permit with NHDES. Edwina Bosse is aware and noted that Matt Coughlin will be assuming that role as part of the work to be done. <https://fcpossipee.org/>

McConarty asked to be notified when the meeting date and time is set and someone from the CC will be there.

Gordon Pilotte talked about walking his dog around Duncan Lake, even though dogs are not allowed, but he picks up after it. But there are overflowing trash cans and no one seems to come by to empty them. McConarty informed him to contact the Recreation dept. because that falls under their realm of responsibility not the Conservation Commission.

NHDES: The Conservation Commission has reviewed, discussed and has no concerns with the scope of work to be done.

Buchanan explained to the attending guest that when people want to do a dredge & fill, build a retaining wall, add a dock, or do any kind of work next to the water, and it's below the high water table, the state claims ownership of all bodies of water over ten acres from the high water mark and beyond. So, if anyone want to do any work near the water they must apply to NHDES for a permit. The permit is generated at the state level, is sent to the Town Clerk and Conservation Commission for approval or any concerns and a response is sent back to the state addressing the concerns. Final approval is always giving through NHDES.

Christine Cummings inquired if the CC does have concerns with some of the applications. McConarty noted sometimes but the Conservation Commission concerns are always addressed to NHDES.

NHDES:

- **Wetlands Permit Application:** Sheila & Dan Lynch of 10 Long Sands Rd. are proposing to replace an existing, damaged 320 sq. ft. stone retaining wall with a 147 sq. ft. stone and concrete footing armoring.
 - 1) **NHDES File Number: 2022-03019:** Received Standard Dredge & Fill Wetlands Permit Application pending response from Municipality by November 14, 2022.
 - 2) **NHDES File Number: 2022-03019: Updated Notice:** Standard Dredge & Fill Wetlands Permit granted on December 27, 2022. Permit expires December 27, 2027.
- **File #2021-00326:** Raed Hertel Family Trust of 617 Four Bays Dr., Nokomis, FL 34275 with property at 11 Connor Pond Rd., Ossipee NH. Tax Map: 061 Lot: 006 was issued a letter of deficiency for there is no record of permits being issued for the impacts observed.
 1. **NHDES File #2021-00326: Updated Notice:** NHDES has received a proposed site restoration plan in response to a NHDES enforcement action. NHDES has approved the Restoration Plan as submitted and subject to specific conditions. Restoration is to be completed by May 26, 2023.

McConarty explained the situation to the attending guest and stated the Conservation Commission will keep an eye on this property.

- **File #2022-01856** – Maria Schiappa Russo of 35 Bay Point Rd. Tax Map: 022 Lot: 012 is in violation of a seasonal dock within 20 feet of an abutting property line.
 1. **File #2022-01856: Updated Notice:** NHDES has determined an outstanding request remains of pending photos that the unpermitted seasonal dock has been removed from the water and placed out of jurisdiction with a deadline of February 15th, 2023.

McConarty explained the situation to the attending guest and stated she will take a ride by this property to see if the dock has been removed.

Intent to Cut: None at this time, but McConarty explained how and why the Conservation Commission is notified of any logging cuts taking place in Ossipee.

Notices: Notices were reviewed by the committee members.

- **SPNHF:** Conservation easement properties of Sumner Brook and Schroeder property (Tamworth). Buchanan gave a history of how the property was obtained in Tamworth and SPNHF – Society for the Protection of NH Forest walks the property each year to ensure no one is encroaching or squatting on the property.

- **NH F&G:** WildLines Newsletter – Winter 2023
- **NHDES:** Supply Lines with the Source Newsletter is going digital
- **GMCG:** The Watershed News – Winter 2023

- **MMRG:** Thank you card for contribution and is hosting a webinar on Conservation 101 for Landowners on about basics of land conservation and conservation easements. This will take place on March 30, at 4:00 pm in the Ossipee Public Library.

- **NHACC:** Thank you note for renewal of members ship and NH Municipal Conservation Commission Handbook.

Old Business:

Windows on the Ossipee Mountains:

- Landscaping project – On Hold until Spring
- Picnic table/bench repair - On Hold until Spring

Buchanan gave a history of how the property was obtained.

McConarty explained per discussion with Jonathan Smith, that if the CC wants the highway guys to help with the work; he would have the Public Works Director, TJ Eldridge would come before the committee to discuss the work to be done and he would work up a bill that would include an hourly rate per highway worker, material, equipment, etc... and the CC would pay it out of the money market account.

Discussion ensued over the work that needs to be done at the Windows On The Ossipee Mountains including keeping the trees and brush at bay, trash pickup, repairs to the picnic tables, and the port a potties. K. Eldridge reported she has the wood needed to repair the picnic tables but needs to pick up lag bolts because most likely the existing ones are rusted in place. McConarty stated come spring, they'll get a bunch of volunteers to help with clean up.

- **Beech River & Annie Nichols Rd Parking:** On Hold – Buchanan noted that the Conservation Commission still needs to complete the sign and parking area for access to the walking trails.

Any Other Business that May Come Before the Commission:

None heard.

Next Meeting Date: March 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Freight House

Adjournment:

A **Motion** made by K. Eldridge to adjourn the meeting. Buchanan seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** The meeting ended at 8:07 PM.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Commission on _____
Date

Marie McConarty, Chairman

or

Ralph Buchanan, Vice Chairman