

**TOWN OF OSSIPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2021**

Minutes were recorded, and a Summary transcribed by Laura Nash, Commission Secretary. Revisions to these minutes are noted by ***bold/italic*** type.

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

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

Membership: Angela Eldridge has been appointed to the Conservation Commission for a 3-year term but needs to get sworn in before she is able to motion or vote on any decisions.

Guest: Elizabeth Gillette - presented offering to volunteer as an alternate on the Conservation Commission. Concerns were raised if she is a resident of Ossipee. Gillette confirmed she is and lives on Thissell Rd. Discussion ensued over the wealth of knowledge Gillette can bring to the commission.

Meeting Minutes: Review to approve July 14, 2021 Minutes

A **Motion** by Buchanan to approve the meeting minutes of July 14, 2021 as submitted. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. All others voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Financial:

- Long Sands Association: Annual donation \$100.00

A **Motion** by Buchanan to accept the annual donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Long Sands Association and deposit it into the Conservation Commission's checking account. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

- White Mountain Survey & Engineering invoice in the amount of \$3,010.00 for surveying and marking the boundaries at the Windows on the Ossipee Mtn. Discussion ensued over the work being done.

A **Motion** by Buchanan to table discussion until the survey is completed and the final invoice is received by the Conservation Commission. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Old Business:

- Beech River & Annie Nichols Rd Parking: McConarty had not spoken with the Tony Eldridge, Public Works Director. But McConarty and Buchanan visited the site. Buchanan suggested waiting until the Windows on the Ossipee Mtn., project is complete. Project put on hold.

New Business:

Windows on the Ossipee Mountains:

- Plans to record – pending completion of the survey.
- Landscaping project – per discussion with Public Works Director

Buchanan spoke with TJ Eldridge, Public Works Director, and discussed the plan which is to move the rocks in order clear the sumac. Buchanan will clear the brush and pull the roots with his grappling system. TJ Eldridge suggested in order to landscape the area, they should put landscaping fabric down to create a barrier, cover it with mulch and replace the rocks 4 ft. apart in order to get the mower in between the rocks to mow down over the embankment to keep the view open for visitors.

The second issue is the trees further down that are growing up, TJ Eldridge suggested clear cutting the area. Buchanan informed TJ Eldridge that since there is a conservation easement, the Commission would have to

get a forester in to look at it and make a recommendation. Buchanan will contact Rick Gerard, Forester for his recommendation to timber cut.

Elizabeth Gillette noted when the property was last clear cut took place a timber management plan was done. She notes it probably has not been revised since. Buchanan noted not only would Rick Gerard need to be contacted but so would Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust as the steward of the Window on the Ossipee Mountains.

- NHDOT Project Ossipee 41251 – Ossipee Scenic Outlook c/o Rebecca Martin:

A **Motion** by Buchanan to send a letter to Rebecca Martin stating “The Conservation Commission met on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 and discussed the proposed drainage work to be done near the Windows on the Ossipee Mountains (Scenic View). The Conservation Commission agrees to having no objections with the drainage work to be done as long as it’s within the 250 ft. setback from the state right of way which has no conservation easement on it.” K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** McConarty instructed the secretary to send an email back to Rebecca Martin.

- Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust merger with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways – Buchanan spoke with Bob Pratt, who explained as members are getting older and do not have the time and energy to put into stewarding all the properties. Elizabeth Gillette explained for 21 years Dan Hole Pond Watershed Trust was made up of all volunteers, and it got to a point where they either had to hire staff to do the work or merge with another organization. DHPWST selected to merge with Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is because of the children program’s they offer. Elizabeth Gillette noted she has moved from the DHPWST Board to the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Board and will explain more once she gets acclimated to the organization.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is a land trust serving the nine towns of Brookfield, Farmington, Milton, New Durham, Ossipee, Tuftonboro, Union, Wakefield and Wolfeboro, within the Moose Mountains region in New Hampshire. Their goal is to conserve lands important to the natural resources and resulting quality of life in our immediate area and surrounding communities.

- Windows on the Ossipee Mountains: Landscaping project – cont.

A **Motion** by Buchanan to expend up to \$1,000 for 2-3 truckloads of gravel, 8-10 big rolls of landscape fabric, gas and oil for Buchanan’s excavator and any other supplies needed to get the Windows on the Ossipee Mountains landscaped. McConarty seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.** Buchanan will submit receipts for reimbursement.

Discussion continued on the work to be done, where to obtain the material, options for finding help with this project, picking a day to go down and cut and haul brush and placing signage while under construction.

Master Plan: Committee member will continue to review each section with the intent of providing any revisions by the October 15th, 2021 deadline.

- McConarty will review chapter 2 & 4
- Buchanan will review chapter 3,
- Eldridge will review chapter 5

NHDES Land Resources Management: The CC reviewed and discussed.

- **File #2021-02274:** 34 Long Sands Road. Tax Map: 051 Lot: 008 approved for a seasonal dock. The Conservation Commission had no concerns with this project.
- **File #2021-01637:** 100 County Farm Rd. Tax Map: 133 Lot: 037 in response to a phone conversation with Mr. Davidson concerning construction going across a stream crossing. The Conservation Commission had no concerns with this project.

- **NHDES - Shoreland Permit Application (for review):** for Jeffrey Barton & Elyse Baney of 40 Remle Rd. Tax Map: 033 Lot: 030 to add a low pervious retaining wall to level off the existing perched beach, Install a new 6 ft. x 30 ft. seasonal dock and add to an existing patio at the existing house. No trees are proposed to be cut within the 50 ft. shoreland set back.

The application and plans were reviewed and discussed by the Conservation Committee.

A **Motion** by Buchanan to notify NHDES - Shoreland Permit that the Ossipee Conservation Commission has no objection to the proposed project. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Intent to Cut: The CC reviewed and discussed.

- **Tax Map: 062 Lot: 039:** (Original Cut) on 340 Ossipee Mtn. Rd. Owner is Robert Levey; to cut 10 acres of 25 acres by Perley Ryder anticipated start date is August 6, 2021. Approved by the Board of Selectmen. Taxes are paid.

Informational Newsletters: N/A

Next Meeting Date: September 8, 2021

Any Other Business that May Come Before the Commission:

A **Motion** by Buchanan to submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting they appoint Elizabeth Gillette as an Alternate to the Conservation Commission. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. A. Eldridge abstained. **Motion passed.**

Discussion ensued about the culvert and road construction taking place on Route 16 by Green Mountain Furniture and right of way easement along that stretch of road. Elizabeth Gillette reported she is very involved as a consulting party to the project on the wildlife corridor. McConarty questioned if there is a wildlife corridor on a piece of property does the State when widening a roadway have the right to use Eminent Domain to cross a right of way easement. Buchanan noted the property owner would have to fight it through the courts.

K. Eldridge was camping at Whit's End, and they were several trees across the river blocking kayakers from paddling downstream. Who should be contacted to have the trees cut and pulled from the water. Suggestions were made of contacting Fish & Game and/or NHDES.

McConarty will call members once Buchanan knows which days he can be there with his excavator to help pull larger saplings. Buchanan commented he should be down there the weekend of August 20 – 22, 2021.

Adjournment:

A **Motion** made by McConarty to adjourn the meeting. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **All voted in favor, motion passed.** The meeting ended at 8:02 PM.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Commission on _____

Date

or

Marie McConarty, Chairperson

Ralph Buchanan, Vice Chairperson
(In the absence of the Chairman)