

**TOWN OF OSSIPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 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 needs to get sworn in before she is able to motion or vote on any decisions.

Meeting Minutes: Review to approve August 11, 2021 Minutes

A **Motion** by Buchanan to approve the meeting minutes of August 11, 2021 as submitted. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. All others voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Guest:

- Edwina Bosse – Constitution Park maintenance: Ms. Bosse presented a packet of information on the current conditions and suggested maintenance plan for Constitution Park. She indicated that some of the trails need work, but a lot of the signs need updating, repair and /or removal. Ms. Bosse recently became the head of the Outdoor Spaces of the MWV Age-Friendly Community. Ossipee is 1 of 12 towns who participate in the programs geared towards an age-friendly community.

Ms. Bosse has communicated with Justin Chaffee, Ossipee Recreational Director, and Matt Howe, Executive Director of Green Mountain Conservation Group, who have expressed interest in Ms. Bosse ideas. Ms. Bosse states they are receiving approximately \$2,000.00 from the MOUNT WASHINGTON VALLEY AARP AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY and is seeking permission from the Conservation Commission to start doing the work she has outlined below:

“Purpose of us coming before the Commission include 4 possible requests. We hope that these will increase the enjoyment of the park by citizens of all ages through all seasons.

1. To get permission to update and correct signage on the 5 existing trails that are reported on the Long Sands Constitution Park map from 1996. We completed a 2 mile walk through of all the trails and paths. We found the following:

- We can use two existing trail signs and move them closer to trail head
- We need about 15 new trail signs helping people to navigate better
- We need to remove the "Tennis" trail sign – because it does not lead to the tennis courts.
- We need to remove the remains of 2 interpretive trail signs (there had been 15)
- We need to mark a few areas with colored arrows
- There are now 2 well worn, short paths leading from the trails to the Park.
- There is now a well-worn path off of Pequawket Rd. that is the other side of Hill Top trail
- There is now a mystery path that is not on the map, nor is there signage. It's down by the trail called “Deer Run,” which has the boardwalk that leads to the lake. It is on the Esker, very wide and goes for .10 mile before there is a sign on tree "Private Property Lake-side Landing" given where it is located and looking at the boundary lines on the map, I am not confident that sign is in the correct place.

2. To get approval to work on the existing Beaver Trail. The Beaver Trail is the only one that needs some serious pruning. We do not plan on creating any new trails. Most of the other trails are in good shape.

3. To update the current map that was drawn in 1996. The playground and dog park are not on the map. There are items on the map that do not exist, and some that should not exist.
4. To have a kiosk built in the general parking area. The new map would be posted on this, as well as rules for using the park. The current sign that is at the entrance is not up to date. For example, it says no dogs are allowed, yet we have a dog park.

As a member of the MWV Age-Friendly Community, we have some funds to make the trail signs and update the map, as well as build the kiosk. We have volunteers who have expressed an interest in helping us with trail grooming. We are hoping to have a work/fun day in October to complete the trail project.

We would need the town to provide 3 signs with the RULES of the park, as well as another road sign that says "To Trails" to place on Conservation Rd."

McConarty commented that the signage would be apart of the Recreation Departments and Ms. Bosse would need to speak with Justin Chaffee. McConarty noted the sign would need to state, "No Dogs Allowed except in the Dog Park."

McConarty expressed, she believes this is an excellent project that the MWV Age-Friendly Community is willing to take on. McConarty advised to speak with Rick Cousins, Zoning Enforcement Officer and he would advise who to speak with at NHDES to obtain a Wetland Permits. Because no work can be done in the wetlands without notification to NHDES of said work and/or a wetlands permit.

Discussion ensued over the potential and intended use of Constitution Park, eventually making the boardwalk ADA compliant but the immediate attention is the signage and the boundary line which abuts Lake Front Landing's property. The Conservation Commission reviewed the maps provided in hopes of determining the correct boundary line to Lake Front Landing.

A **Motion** by Buchanan to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen from the Conservation Commission, who supports approval for the MWV Age-Friendly Community to work on said Town property as listed within Ms. Bosse attached letter. Provided they obtain approvals from the Board of Selectmen, Highway department, Recreation department, Zoning Officer/Building Inspector and must obtain a letter of approval or Wetlands Permit from NHDES Wetlands Division. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

- Elizabeth Gillette – The Board of Selectmen unanimously denied the Conservation Commission's request to appoint Elizabeth Gillette as an alternate on the Conservation Commission.

Financial:

- Budget Report thru August 18, 2021- The CC reviewed, and a brief discussion was held concerning the added line-items coming to the reports. The CC has concerns with the salary line items for the secretary and the timber monitor possibly being grouped together. The Conservation Commission will request to have the salaries separated on the report.

McConarty inquired about the line item for the Lake Host Program. Based on prior conversations with the Town Administrator, she was under the impression that Ned Kucera would need to apply for funding through the outside agency process. McConarty will follow up with Ned Kucera and Matt Sawyer, Jr. over where and how the funding will be going forward.

- Proposed 2022 Budget Report – on hold until the revised form is provided by the Finance Director.

Old Business:

- Beech River & Annie Nichols Rd Parking: On Hold

Tim Otterbach inquired on the status of the Annie Nichols/Beech River project. McConarty informed him that all the engineering and surveying work has been completed. But the project is on hold until the Windows on the Ossipee Mountains is completed.

- Windows on the Ossipee Mountains:

- Plans to record – pending completion of the survey.
- Landscaping project – Buchanan moved the rocks and began clearing the sumac, brush and pull the roots with his grappling system. TJ Eldridge suggested putting 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.

With some of highway workers on vacation, Krystal Eldridge called around and was able to reach Shawn Berry, who take the frontend loader down to the site to move to piles of soil and gravel and remove the debris.

The Conservation Commission have scheduled a Clean - Up work day at the Windows on the Ossipee Mountains for Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 9:00 AM, for laying the landscaping fabric, raking, trash pick-up and repair the Picnic table seating. Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated. Bring your own tools and gloves.

Master Plan: Committee member 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 # 2021-01592:** Alan & Patricia LaJoie of 26 South Shore Rd. Tax Map: 052 Lot: 003 for violation of installing a jet ski lift without a permit. Is given until August 20, 2021 to respond to NHDES Wetland Bureau.
- **NHDES Expedited Wetlands Permit** for Timothy Folsom –for 100 County Farm Rd. - Tax Map: 133 Lot: 037. Is Granted Approval to construct a driveway crossing that will be approximately 19' wide and span a run of 14' at its widest point.

Informational Newsletters: Carroll County Conservation District: invitation to Legislation Tour

Next Meeting Date: **October 13, 2021**

Any Other Business that May Come Before the Commission: None presented.

Adjournment:

A **Motion** made by Buchanan to adjourn the meeting. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **All voted in favor, motion passed.** The meeting ended at 8:05 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)