

TOWN OF OSS�PEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2019

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 – Vice-Chairman, James Dolan, and Lorey Pendarvis. **Absent** were Joe Deighan and Krystal Eldridge

Meeting Minutes: Review to approve May 8, 2019. Buchanan noted a correction on page 3, under New Business – Bylaws – Bill Hoyt should be Bill Hunt. Buchanan noted he miss spoke when addressing the founders of the Conservation Commission.

A **Motion** by Buchanan to approve the meeting minutes of May 8, 2019, as amended. Pendarvis seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Financial:

- Budget Report: 05/01/2019 – 05/31/2019 – McConarty noted the committee is at 66.96% for the overall budget.

- Checking Acct: Nash informed the Committee per Town Treasurer, Harry Merrow before any other funds can be distributed, and funds will need to be transferred from the money market account to the checking account. McConarty would prefer to go through each bill and make a motion for the total amount to be transferred.

- Money Market Acct: Balance \$ N/A

- Coyote Mtn. Farm: Invoice for \$4,500.00 work done at Windows on the Ossipee Mtns.

Th committee discussed the work done at the Windows on the Ossipee Mountains and were very pleased with AJ's work and the \$4,500.00 was well spent. Dolan mentioned that someone dumped a table and chair over the embankment behind the picnic table area but would need help getting it removed. McConarty said she would get help to remove it.

A **Motion** by McConarty to expend in the amount of \$4,500.00 for work done to clean up brush at the Windows on the Ossipee Mountains. Dolan seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

- NH Lakes: Annual donation of \$300.00

The Committee reviewed the benefits provided by NH Lakes and noted this is one of the annual donations the committee does contributes too.

A **Motion** by Dolan to expend in the amount of \$300.00 for renewal of the annual membership/donation to NH Lakes. Pendarvis seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

- Town of Tamworth property taxes \$36.00

A **Motion** by Pendarvis to expend in the amount of \$36.00 to the Town of Tamworth for the 2019 taxes. Dolan seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Unfinished Business:

- Lake Host Program: McConarty tried to contact Jim McElroy, Lake Host Coordinator, and has left a message to speak with him, with no response back. The CC have agreed to wait to be contacted by the Lake Host Coordinator for contribution of funds to pay for the Lake Host. McConarty will report to the CC if she happens to hear back from Jim McElroy.
- CC Property Signs: The new sign for the Windows on the Ossipee Mountains has been installed and everyone is pleased with the outcome. Buchanan would like to proceed soon with the next sign which will be for the Town Forest on Route 16. Buchanan is due about \$56.80 for stain and materials but will wait until they start the second sign before he submits for reimbursement. Buchanan spoke with a gentleman who recommends using spruce because it's easier to router. Buchanan will look into using spruce and pressure treat for the sign. Buchanan commented per the Zoning Officer, if the committee makes all the proposed signs the same size, there should not be any conflict with any zoning or sign ordinances.
- Scenic Vista/Windows on the Ossipee Clean-up: The committee agreed that Coyote Mountain Farm and AJ did an excellent job cleaning up the brush. Dolan mentioned that someone dumped a table and chair over the embankment but would need help getting it removed. McConarty said she would get help to remove it.
- Old Mill Site on Beech River & Annie Nichols Rd Parking: Revised contract was mailed to White Mountain Survey & Engineering on 05/10/2019. Pending response for scheduling the work has been received as of this date.

New Business: (Strike from By-Laws in Red - Add/Keep are in Blue)

- Bylaws: The actual date of March 5, 1976 was added for the origin of the Ossipee Conservation Commission. A question was raised on if the Get Wild Program should be removed from the list of Current Standing Committees on page 5, Article IV Committees – Section 2. The committee opted to keep all programs in the by-laws for the near future.

Buchanan read and suggested adding verbiage to Article I - **Section 2: Mission:** to include the following:

“The Ossipee Conservation Commission is dedicated to the protection of the Town of Ossipee’s rural character, natural environment of the Lakes, Mountains, and Rivers, and working landscape by encouraging and supporting land conservation efforts, public education, and careful Town planning.”

McConarty questioned if the committee was striking the selected item on page 3 section I –

“Develop and maintain a Conservation Plan with mapping layers representing the priorities listed in Article II Section 1 B. As much as possible, this information will be shared among all Town boards, any interested residents, and regionally to support land protection intentions.”

The secretary suggested yes because there is no **“Article II Section 1 B.”** The committee agreed to strike.

McConarty also noted on page 3 of adding verbiage to - **Section 4: Authority**, which documents when the Conservation Commission was instated.

“These Bylaws are established based on the authority provided under New Hampshire RSA 36-A. The Ossipee Conservation Commission was formed by a vote of the Annual Town meeting on March 5, 1976.”

Nash suggested to the following changes on page 4 **Section 7. Duties**

*“Each member of the Conservation Commission shall carry out the duties and functions of the Conservation Commission as set forth in these Bylaws and under RSA, 36-A. Members shall familiarize themselves with ~~(striking because the CC does not have a Land Conservation Guide)~~ **the Land Conservation Guide for the Town of Ossipee (Adopted???)** and the **Handbook for New Hampshire’s Municipal Conservation Commissions.**”*

McConarty noted the changes on the following pages:

Page 4 **Section 8. Orientation and Training**

The Conservation Commission shall provide an information packet to new members which will include, as a minimum, a copy of these bylaws, a list of members names and contact information, a list of sub-committees and their members, and a copy of ~~(striking because the CC does not have a Land Conservation Guide)~~ **the Land Conservation Guide for the Town of Ossipee (Adopted???)** and the **Handbook for New Hampshire’s Municipal Conservation Commissions.**”

Page 5 **Section 2: Current Standing Committees**

“Current Standing Committees are: ~~(keep)~~ **Get Wild Program**, Lake Host Program, Education, and Bylaws.”

Page 6 **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS - Section 1: Regular Meetings**

“Monthly meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month ~~(strike 6:30 PM)~~ ~~(and add)~~ **at 7:00 PM...**”

Page 6 (cont.)

“Minutes of all such meetings shall be promptly recorded and open to public inspection within ~~(strike 144 hours)~~ ~~(add)~~ **5 business days**, per (RSA 91-A: 2, II).”

Buchanan would like to add “and Other Properties” to page 4, **Section 7. Duties** – because the CC monitors several others properties in addition to the ones listed.

“Each member shall participate in at least one annual property monitoring of conservation easements held by the conservation commission and report on conditions. Conservation Properties include:

1. Beech River
2. Sawyer Rd. (6 properties)
3. Nichols Rd. (8 properties)
4. **Town Forests**
5. **And Other Properties”**

Page 8

Section 2: Conservation Fund

“1. A Money Market Account was established as a result of timber cuts in ~~(strike 1984)~~ ~~(add)~~ **1993.**
At that time...”

Nash questioned if this should remain in the by-laws, since the commission has not put forth warrant articles in the past few years. Dolan suggested adding the following verbiage but to keep this in the by-laws.

“2. Each year the Conservation Commission shall place, *if needed*, a warrant article *for funds* to be voted on at Town meeting for an additional amount to be placed into the Conservation Fund.”

The Committee preferred to review it one more revision before giving final approval. The secretary will make the necessary revisions for the next meeting on July 10th, 2019.

- Get Wild Program: Buchanan spoke with Justin, who's interested in continuing the program but do to some issues with the sale and deed of the property and not enough time to get it organized for this year, the Committee determined to keep it on the agenda to start planning earlier for next year. Buchanan explained how the CC would sponsor the event, tables and tents would be set up for other conservation groups to provide education on water quality testing of the lakes and rivers, ecology of the forests and promoting land conservation. There is also an animal education show provided by Wildlife Encounters, and possibly food vendors. But all funds go towards preserving the fish hatchery and for the sale of the fish, the poles, and lures.

- Sumner Brook Property: The Board of Selectmen stated at their meeting on June 10th stated, the funds from the sale of the Sumner Brook & Fish Hatchery property will not be deposited into the Ossipee Conservation Commission's Money Market account. Because the Conservation Commission cannot own property. The town actually owns the property and taxes have never been paid on the property. The money from the sale of the property will be deposited into the general fund. McConarty and Deighan were both at the Board of Selectwomen's meeting Monday and spoke for the Conservation Commission but to no avail.

- David Bertran: c/o Judy L. Bertran, Trustee – White Pond Rd. Tax Map: 128 Lot: 006 is requesting to put his property into a conservation easement and wants to know how to go about this process. Nash contacted LRPC for guidance on the process and provided the committee the findings. The committee reviewed the information provided. The location is on Tax Map 128 Lot: 006 on White Pond Rd. Buchanan was given the contact information to follow up on and will report to the committee for the next meeting.

Intent to Cut: The Committee reviewed and discussed each location.

- **Tax Map: 239 Lot: 001**: (Original Cut) on Chickville Rd. thru Tax Map: 239 Lot: 001 Owner is Bradley Leighton, Trustee; to cut 80 +/- acres of 176 +/- acres by Timberwolf Logging, anticipated start date of as soon as possible. Approved by the Board of Selectmen. Taxes are paid and Yes, there is a Cemetery on property.
- **Tax Map: 242 Lot: 002**: (Original Cut) on Chickville Rd. thru Tax Map: 239 Lot: 001 Owner is Bradley Leighton, Trustee; to cut 52 +/- acres of 54 +/- acres by Timberwolf Logging, anticipated start date of +/- 06/10/2019. Approved by the Board of Selectmen. Taxes are paid and No Cemetery on property.
- **Tax Map: 243 Lot: 007**: (Original Cut) on Chickville Rd. Owner is 2012 Foresight Realty Trust c/o Bradley Leighton, Trustee; to cut 15 +/- acres of 30.98 acres by Timberwolf Logging, anticipated start date of 06/10 – 06/20/2019. Approved by the Board of Selectmen. Taxes are paid and No Cemetery on property.

NHDES: Wetlands Permit: The Committee reviewed and discussed each location and any circumstances they may have with the properties.

- File #2019-00000 – Driscoll Family Trust, Brian Driscoll, trustee, 58 Ridge Rd. Tax Map: 035 Lot: 008 – expedited permit application submitted.

- File #2019-00000 – Anthony Mennino, 146 Hodsdon Shores Rd. Tax Map: 073 Lot: 073 – standard review permit application submitted to construct a perched beach on the property.
- File #2018-03495 – Zoe Marie Rev. Trust – Julie A Smith, Trustee. 46 Channel Rd, Tax Map: 022 Lot: 039 – request denied because requested missing information was not received within the 60-day timeframe.

Informational Newsletters:

- GMCG: Invite to “Keeping Our Lakes Healthy Symposium.”
- McConarty reported she was contacted by a Moselle Spiller, Outreach Coordinator for Green Mountain Conservation Group on writing an article for their summer newsletter, reporting on anything OCC is working on this year. Buchanan suggested writing that OCC has installed a new sign at the Windows on the Ossipee Mountains and brush clean-up at the scenic vista has been completed in time for the enjoyment of the summer months. McConarty noted the deadline to submit is Friday, June 14th and asked if the secretary could write a letter to submit.
- Loon Preservation Committee: Maintaining water levels to preserve the loon population.
- LRPC Annual Meeting, Awards & Dinner: McConarty, Buchanan and Pendarvis stated they would like to attend the LRPC Annual Meeting, Awards & Dinner to be held on June 24th, 2019 and for the secretary to contact LRPC to confirm and submit paperwork to the Board of Selectwomen to approve expenditure from the Conservation dues & workshops budget line item.

Any Other Business that May Come Before the Commission:

A **Motion** by McConarty requesting that \$5,000.00 be transferred from the Money Market account to the Checking account for the purpose of paying invoices approved earlier. Dolan seconded. Buchanan suggested increasing the amount to \$5,500.00 to provide a reserve in the account. McConarty and Dolan withdrew their previous motion.

A **Motion** by McConarty requesting that \$5,500.00 be transfer funds from the Money Market account and deposit into the Checking account for the purpose of paying invoices approved earlier. Dolan seconded. No further discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **Motion passed.**

Adjournment:

A **Motion** made by Buchanan to adjourn the meeting. Pendarvis seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken. **All voted in favor, motion passed.** The meeting ended at 7:53 PM.

Next meeting date: July 10, 2019

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Commission on _____

Date

or

Marie McConarty, Chairperson

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