



## Conservation Commission

December 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium

### APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Ellen Snyder (Chair), Melissa Sharples (Vice-Chair), David Bell, Jeffrey Goldknopf (Planning Board Rep.), Tom Jones (Alternate) and Colin Lawson (Alternate).

**Members Absent:** Cris Blackstone, Sam Kenney, Julianna Tyson, and Colin White (Town Council Rep. – *ex officio*)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

[time on DCAT 4:36]

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 2. Roll Call

The Chair welcomed two new alternate members appointed at the most recent Town Council Meeting. They have not been sworn in as yet, but will be soon. Welcome and thank you to Tom Jones and Colin Lawson.

#### 3. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

November 8, 2022:

[time on DCAT 6:48]

The Chair postponed the approval of the November 8 meeting until the January 12, 2023 meeting.

#### 5. Finance Report

[time on DCAT 6:52]

The Chair reported that the Conservation Fund (CF) balance is currently \$133,991.29 which includes the Richard Schanda Park Fund of \$4,764.46. So the actual balance currently available in the CF is \$129,226.83. She also reported that the ConCom has received \$135.15 in interest this month. We received a small amount of residual land use tax and also the new Sliding Rock LRAC grant (one half has been deposited now - \$3,162.50).

## 6. Committee/Board Reports

[time on DCAT 11:23]

Planning Board/Town Planner: **Jeff Goldknopf** reported that the final draft of the proposed ordinance changes is getting close to a final vote to move the changes on to the Town Council. A copy of the draft can be viewed on the Town website.

Ad-hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee: **Sam Kenney** could not make the meeting this evening. He mentioned to the Chair that there will be a meeting coming up shortly and they are working on ways to fund the living shoreline project at Schanda Park.

Town Council: **Colin White** could not make the meeting this evening and there was no report.

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee: **Julianna Tyson** could not make the meeting this evening and there was no report.

## 7. Conservation Easement Monitoring

[time on DCAT 19:27]

**Jeff** and **Julianna** completed the Bald Hill reservation monitoring. **Ellen** completed Silverman, Schneer, and the Gaziano property. **Melissa** and **Jeff** have not done Nostrum Farm, but a firm date will be agreed upon this evening. **David** has completed the Smith Sisters property. It did take three trips to complete the monitoring because of the heavy brush. He said everything is fine, but he did mention some boundary marker issues in his report which should be addressed. **Ellen** mentioned the Hilton Easement which is monitored by SELT and she joined them a few weeks ago to walk the property. There is a boundary issue as several pins could not be located and she asked **Jeff** to try to find them with her with the aid of a metal detector. Wiggin is monitored by State because it is overseen by LCHIP, NHDES, and Fish & Game. Dearborn is another property that is monitored by the State for the Fish & Game easement. Any property purchased with LCHIP funding must be monitored by the State. We continue to have brush being dumped onto both Wiggin and Dearborn, so the Chair will write letters to the abutters. Issues with the Dearborn easement still need to be addressed. Fish & Game would like the 50 ft. easement to be gravel not pavement.

## 8. Land Stewardship/Conservation

[time on DCAT 37:08]

Piscassic River-Loiselle Conservation Area: The Chair reported on the successful completion of the new bridge. It only took 2-3 hours and pictures are posted on the Facebook page of the happy and successful workers! **Melissa** confirmed the new sign with Timberline and the cost is a little higher than previously approved (\$2,200). It is now \$2,375. The ConCom needs to pay a deposit of half of the cost now (\$1,187.50) for Timberline to get started on the project. She will be receiving a proof before they begin to share with members. It will be ready in the spring and we will need the assistance of DPW to install the sign in front of the row of cedars near the entrance.

### Action

Motion: **Ellen Snyder** moved to expend an additional \$300.00 to add to the monies already allocated to purchase the new Piscassic River/ Loiselle sign from the Conservation Fund.

**Second:**           **Melissa Sharples**  
**Discussion:**       None  
**Vote:**               **Approved Unanimously 4-0-0**

The Chair reported on the 18" x 24" trail signs for PR/L for the two trail junctions. These signs will be placed on the posts recently installed on the work day. The hope is to put them up in the next 2-3 weeks.

*Sliding Rock Recreation and Conservation Area – LRAC application:*  
**Ellen** reported that we received the grant from LRAC for \$6,325

### **Action**

**Motion:**           **David Bell** moved to accept the grant from LRAC and to expend those funds for the proposed projects as specified in the grant application.  
**Second:**           **Melissa Sharples**  
**Discussion:**       None  
**Vote:**               **Approved Unanimously 4-0-0**

The grant included:

- Hazard trees remove/drop ~ 8 hazard trees near boat launch/trailhead \$2,000 Orion Tree Service
- Kiosk and trailhead create new interpretive panels for a kiosk and trailhead with watershed map, trail map, etc. \$2,000 Cathy Arekalian-design; Portsmouth Sign Printing
- Trail Assess the existing 1/4 mile trail for accessibility/improvements \$500 Snowhawk, LLC, Lew Shelley
- Kayak space Add one more kayak rack for 6 kayaks and cable locks. Rec Dept says this is one of their most popular boat sites, and signage \$1,300 Logkayakrack.com (quote from Aimee Gigandet, Director of the Rec Dept)
- NH DES permits included in case we need permits for some of the tasks \$425
- Stakes and fencing to place around eroded area near shore where people have been storing and dragging boats \$100

**Wiggin Farm:** The Chair reported that the ConCom has received a request from a neighbor near Wiggin Farm to donate a picnic table as a memorial. Right now the Town is working on a new policy which would include criteria and specifications for accepting gifts of this kind. The Chair spoke with the potential donor and she understands that the ConCom must postpone action until a later date.

### **9. Other**

The members are very happy to have two new alternate members! Welcome!

### **10. Adjourn**

[time on DCAT 1:00:27]

### **Action**

**Motion:**           **Ellen Snyder** moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

**Second:** David Bell  
**Discussion:** None  
**Vote:** Approved Unanimously 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary

**DCAT:**

[https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7\\_5VjxKP/videos](https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos)