



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING**

Thursday, January 17, 2019 6:00 PM  
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES  
Approved 2/21/2019**

Mr. Dickerman called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM and asked for a roll call.

**I. Roll Call**

**Present:** Gary Dickerman, Steve Wood, Scott Magnuson, Kim Gogan, Eileen Skowronski, John Hurley

**Absent:**

Everyone welcomed the Commission's newest member, Jack Hurley.

**II. Election of Officers**

Mr. Magnuson nominated Gary Dickerman for chair and Steve Wood for vice-chair. Ms. Skowronski seconded the nominations and all were in favor. Mr. Dickerman and Mr. Wood accepted the nominations.

**III. 2019 Meeting Schedule**

**Motion:** To accept the 2019 calendar of meetings.

**Made by:** Ms. Skowronski      **Second:** Mr. Magnuson

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**IV. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)**

**a. January 3, 2019**

**Motion:** Accept as presented

**Made by:** Mr. Magnuson      **Second:** Mr. Wood

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**b. December 20, 2018 (Notes only – approval not required)**

**c. December 11, 2018**

**Motion:** Accept as presented

**Made by:** Mr. Magnuson      **Second:** Ms. Skowronski

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**d. November 15, 2018**

**Motion:** Approve minutes of November 15, 2018

**Made by:** Ms. Skowronski      **Second:** Mr. Magnuson  
**Vote:** Mr. Wood and Mr. Hurley abstained; all others voted in favor

V. **Finance Report**

The Commission reviewed the latest financial statement. The current working balance is \$9,997.20. The Trustees Fund balance is \$52,201.34.

VI. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

VII. **Old Business**

a. **Conservation Camp Sponsorships**

The Commission had agreed at their last meeting (January 3, 2019) to sponsor one camper this year. At that time, the Commission discussed the idea of fund raising for a special campership fund. However, City Treasurer, Lisa Richmond, felt this would not be feasible due to the RSA restrictions on Commission expenditures. Mrs. Richmond felt this should be the last year that the Commission funds camperships. NHMA Legal Services does not feel it is an appropriate expenditure (see email from Steven Buckley dated 4/10/2018 regarding paying for a bus for a middle school field trip to Sargent Camp.)

The Commissioners all agreed that they would continue sponsoring camperships if it were legally appropriate, but no one wanted to put the City in a legally precarious position.

The Commissioners discussed various alternative means of funding camperships that won't run afoul of the RSA such as a "Friends of" type group or asking other organizations to help. They agreed to try and find out what other conservation commissions do.

b. **Stevens Brook Trail Update**

Lew Shelley had hoped to work on the trail layout this past fall, but it looks like it won't happen till spring.

The Commission brought Mr. Hurley up to speed on the Stevens Brook Conservation Easement.

c. **Emerald Ash Borer – update**

Mr. Dickerman and Mr. Wood made an inventory of ash trees in the city center. Mr. Dickerman sent the information to arborist Lee Stevens. Mr. Stevens responded with cost estimates and treatment options. The Commission, with Mr. Stevens' assistance, will now need to determine the complete treatment plan (i.e. which trees to be treated with which method, which trees should be removed, etc.). The Planning department will provide a map on which to pinpoint each tree, its proposed plan, and cost. This will then be presented to the City Council.

d. **VRAP**

Andrea Bejtlich from the VRAP sent Sugar River watershed data, maps of current sampling stations and a map of proposed stations for the Commission to review.

A second meeting with the VRAP representatives was set for February 13, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the Visitor Center.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **a. Jarvis Hill Bridge project**

The Commission was asked to provide input on an upcoming NH DOT project to repair the Jarvis Hill Bridge across the Sugar River. The bridge is located in both the ESA 9 *Sugar River west* and ESA 10 *Connecticut River south* ecologically significant areas as shown in the 2013 Natural Resources Inventory.

The Commission asked to see the construction plans as soon as they are available and asked for some assurance of extra caution being taken during the project to minimize or preclude any impact to these ecologically significant areas.

## **IX. Communications**

### **a. NHDES Wetlands Permit Application – 364 River Road**

This application was presented as an expedited application to the Commission on 11/15/18. The Commission signed off on it at that time.)

### **b. Standard Dredge and Fill Application – 364 River Road – Request for More Information**

DES seeks additional information on this project.

## **X. Other Business**

### **a. Draft Wetland Rules - draft changes**

The NHACC has been working closely with conservation commissions around the state and with DES on these draft rule changes. A summary of their opinions was published in the December 2018 NHACC newsletter. A meeting had been scheduled for final comments on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The public comment period ends on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The Commission will continue to watch for updates on this as they become available. All agreed that this work is one of the reasons they support the NHACC.

Mr. Dickerman reminded the Commission that they had agreed to visit the Conservation Plan quarterly. It will be the first item on the agenda for the February meeting. Mr. Dickerman asked everyone to reread the Plan and be prepared for discussion.

January 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a seminar on knotweed at the Montshire Museum.

Mr. Dickerman shared an article from the 1/17/2019 issue of the Eagle Times regarding stone wall mapping in NH. There is a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/NHstonewalls](http://www.facebook.com/groups/NHstonewalls)) and a website ([www.granit.unh.edu/resourcelibrary/specialtopics/stonewall](http://www.granit.unh.edu/resourcelibrary/specialtopics/stonewall)) to visit.

## **XI. Work Session**

It was agreed to put the links for the stone wall mapping project on the Commission's Facebook page.

The Commission will also add a link to the Montshire Museum's videos on bees.

## **XII. Future Agenda Items**

XIII. **Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Made by:** Mr. Wood **Second:** Mr. Hurley

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*de Forest Bearse*