



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday, February 21, 2019 6:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 3/21/2019**

Mr. Dickerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and asked for a roll call.

I. Roll Call

Present: Gary Dickerman, Steve Wood, Scott Magnuson, John Hurley, Olivia Uyizeye

Absent: Kim Gogan, Eileen Skowronski

Everyone welcomed newest Commissioner, Olivia Uyizeye.

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

a. January 17, 2019

Motion: To accept as presented

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report –

Current balance is \$10,052. 91. Current Trust Funds balance is \$52,201.34. Second quarter interest payment was \$55.71.

IV. Public Comment

No public was present.

V. Old Business

a. City Center Trees –

i. Motion to approve RPC invoice

The Regional Planning Commission made a large-scale aerial photo showing the street trees in the City Center. The map can be used to show individual treatment plans for each of the trees and can be used for presentation to City Council.

Motion: To pay the UVLSRPC invoice of \$35 for the aerial photo.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

ii. Plan from Lee Stevens?

There was nothing new from Mr. Stevens. Mr. Dickerman and Mr. Wood will make a second tour of the City Center trees – perhaps with Mr. Stevens – to develop a final plan and set of recommendations in the next couple of months (when the weather is a bit warmer).

b. VRAP – select next meeting date

It was agreed to meet with the VRAP representatives on March 26th with March 27th as a back-up in case the weather is bad on the 26th.

VI. New Business

a. Conservation Plan Review

The Commission completed their first quarterly review of the Plan. The purpose of the review was to see if any changes to the Plan were necessary and to discuss projects to take on this year from the Plan.

Review Goals

Goal #2 – Ms. Uyizeye suggested adding storm water management to this goal – driveway culverts, raingardens, etc.

Goal #4 – Mr. Hurley suggested having students take on clean-up activities. Ms. Uyizeye suggested improving access to the City’s parks, as that itself may help with all of the objectives under this goal. It was agreed to add it as objective 5.

Goal #6 – Mr. Dickerman will ask the mayor for an update on the boat launch improvements.

The Commission asked to have a calendar created that will show which events the Commission has undertaken in the past and when they were done (e.g. annual monitoring of Stevens Brook easement in May).

Projects to add to the calendar will include boundary work on easement #2; outreach to landowners regarding invasives; Stevens Brook trail; Source-to-Sea Clean-up; VRAP activities; pollinator garden at Moody Park.

b. Plans for lecture on invasive species by Douglas Cygan

Mr. Dickerman attended a presentation on invasive plants in New Hampshire at the Montshire Museum, and has engaged the speaker for a similar presentation in Claremont at the April 18th Commission meeting. It was agreed to invite other area conservation commissions to attend (Lempster, Unity, Charlestown, Weathersfield, Windsor, Cornish and Plainfield).

VII. Communications

a. Tetra Tech additional information for 364 River Road project

b. Emergency Bank Stabilization of Sugar River – Mr. Dickerman explained that DES had reached out to him for approval of emergency bank stabilization work to be done on the Sugar River near the City’s pump station. The plan is to install riprap now to keep the bank stable during spring runoff, then later stabilize it with vegetation. Mr. Dickerman agreed to approve the plans on behalf of the Commission with the understanding that the planting plan would be presented to the

Commission before it is approved by DES. Mr. Dickerman said he would speak to DPW Director Vic St. Pierre to get additional information.

VIII. **Other Business**

Mr. Hurley said he would be glad to go to the Plan NH Nature & Economy workshop in Concord on March 14th and urged other Commissioners to consider attending as it appears to be geared toward group participation.

Mr. Hurley asked what the Commission can do about bills working their way through the legislature. He said there are three bills in particular that he felt the Commission should influence if possible: Senate bill 200 regarding wildlife corridors; House bill 560-FN regarding single-use plastic bags; and House bill 558-FN regarding distribution of plastic straws. He asked what – if anything – the Commission could do, if it in fact it chose to support these bills. Mr. Dickerman said at the very least the Commission can write letters of support. He said the plastic bag and plastic straw bills come the Source-to-Sea Clean-up group.

Ms. Uyizeye asked what the Commission's policy is for posting items on its Facebook page. She suggested posting information about these bills and why they are happening on the Commission's page.

Mr. Hurley suggested contacting the City's own legislators to let them know the Commission supports these bills.

It was noted that protection and creation of wildlife corridors is a goal in the natural resources chapter of the Master Plan.

It was agreed that Mr. Hurley would take charge of writing the letter and staff will get it where it needs to go (legislators, committees?).

Mr. Hurley recommended reading *The Nature Fix* by Florence Williams.

Mr. Wood mentioned the upcoming *Connecticut River Conservancy at the Connecticut River Watershed Summit Celebration for Southern VT and NH!* On February 26th in Putney, VT.

A gathering of the Upper Valley Conservation Commissions is being hosted by the Upper Valley Land Trust at 6PM on March 19th at Hypertherm.

IX. **Future Agenda Items**

X. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

de Forest Bearse