



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Thursday March 21, 2019 6:00 PM
14 North Street, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
Approved 4/17/2019**

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, Kim Gogan, Eileen Skowronski (until 7:15 PM), John Hurley, Olivia Uyizeye

Absent:

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

A. February 21, 2019

Corrections: Change “Woods” to “Wood” and “UVRPC” to “UVLSRPC” on pg. 1

Motion: To accept as corrected

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report – There was no finance report this month as nothing has changed.

IV. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

V. Old Business

A. Annual Calendar

Thus far the calendar for this year looks like:

April

- Search for vernal pools at easement #2
- 2nd City Center ash tree survey
- 4/17 – business meeting
- 4/18 – Invasives presentation
- 4/27 – Earth Day/Boat Landing Clean Up

May

- May 4th – Pick up pollinator plants

- VRAP training in Concord – Mr. Magnuson, Mr. Wood, and Ms. Skowronski will be attending.
- Stevens Brook – annual monitoring report
- May 18th – plant pollinator garden at Stevens Brook
- VRAP sampling begins

June

- Easement #2
 - Mark boundaries
 - Inventory/map resources
- Develop plans for pollinator garden at Moody Park

September

- 9/27 & 28 - Source-to-Sea Clean Up

Ms. Gogan suggested an educational walk or presentation on pollinator gardens at Moody Park in June. Some suggestions were to get someone from the group in Hanover (the group that put on the talks at the Montshire Museum) to do the presentation or perhaps ask Lee Stevens' wife to do it. Another idea was to film the planting of the pollinator garden at Stevens Brook or film brainstorming of what a pollinator garden at Moody Park would look like. Ms. Skowronski said she would help find someone to do the talk. Mark Brislin and the Parks and Recreation Commission should be brought into the discussion about a garden at Moody Park as well.

B. Ashley Ferry Boat Landing – update

There was no new information on this. The Mayor suggested having Mr. Dickerman contact the City Manager and asking him to find out from the State where we are on the silt removal list and where we are on their schedule for the renovation of the site.

C. VRAP – update

The March 26th meeting with the VRAP representatives has been cancelled. They have asked us to come to Concord on May 4th for training. Mr. Magnuson, Mr. Wood, and Ms. Skowronski agreed to attend.

VI. New Business

A. Advertising for Doug Cygan event

Mr. Dickerman has sent the flier to each of the local Conservation Commissions. It has been published on the Commission's Facebook page. It will be sent to the eTicker and the Eagle Times and will be posted on the City website.

B. Action on bills before legislature

The Commission spent a fair amount of time discussing a process whereby the Commission can weigh in on pending legislation without running afoul of the open meeting laws.

NHACC recently sent out their list of bills to watch. Everyone agreed to review the list and choose which bills they felt the Commission should support. Choices should go to Mr. Hurley by April 4th for discussion at the April 17th meeting.

Mr. Hurley volunteered to keep on top of legislative matters.

All agreed that if a bill comes up that is important to the Commission and time sensitive, it would be appropriate to hold a special meeting to discuss and vote on it.

C. Student Projects

Mr. Hurley asked to have this discussion added to the agenda. He said our natural resources are important and the Commission needs to educate the population in general and our students in particular about them. He asked if Ms. Gogan knew of a teacher or any environmental-type club in the school system that might be interested in doing something like that. Ms. Gogan said the Commission had invited a biology teacher to participate in a program with the Commission, but the teacher seemed reluctant to take on more than what she was already doing. All of the middle school teachers are new this year, so Ms. Gogan didn't know any of them.

Mr. Hurley asked if anyone is in charge of science for the district? Ms. Gogan said not anymore. Mr. Hurley might reach out to the current curriculum coordinators. He said he was meeting with them shortly on a different matter, but he preferred to bring this up at a different time.

Dawn Dextrase (Sullivan County Conservation District) works with the elementary students. Ms. Gogan said they are already doing project-based learning, forest Fridays and outdoor education for the last couple of years. Sullivan County has been a big supporter of these efforts. Ms. Dextrase has offered support to the middle school, but there have been no takers yet beyond using the stream table. This year all three middle school science teachers were new. Ms. Dextrase's goal is to reach out to the middle school teachers again.

Mr. Hurley said the Commission should be part of what's going on – to support them and give them some ideas and expertise; it looks good for the Commission that we're getting involved in the community and supporting our students' knowledge of our natural resources

Mr. Dickerman said that Ms. Dextrase and Lionel Chute had been contacted by the Maple Avenue school about accessing Moody Park from behind the school. (This had been presented to the Commission and Parks and Rec before, who felt it was not possible.) However, it appears that Lionel and Dawn will be working with SCA (Student Conservation Association) to make it happen. Dawn had asked Mr. Dickerman if the Commission wanted to partner with them in some way and Mr. Dickerman had said yes. They may be coming to our next meeting to discuss it.

Ms. Gogan remarked on how lucky we are to have someone like Dawn whose sole role is to support teachers in environmental education.

Mr. Dickerman commented on the amazing programs that Dawn and Lionel have been sponsoring, including the new series of “pop-up events”. He agreed that they are a terrific team and an incredible asset to our county.

Mr. Hurley volunteered to contact the curriculum people and explore possibilities for the Commission to engage with the students. Ms. Gogan suggested presenting specifics – projects, timing, number and age level of students to engage, etc. It was agreed to discuss projects that might be appropriate for kids to be involved in at a future meeting.

D. Spring Clean Up/Earth Day

Earth Day is on a Monday this year, with Easter the preceding Sunday. The Mayor would like the Commission to help coordinate City-wide Earth Day activities, but it is too late in the year to make that work. Next year would be better.

The Commission will focus on the boat launch area. High school students needing community service time will be invited to attend. They will need to sign up ahead of time. A maximum of five students will be chosen.

Clean up will be on April 27th, 9 AM – 1 PM.

(Ms. Skowronski left the meeting at this point.)

E. Pollinator Garden at Stevens Brook

Mr. Dickerman will be picking up the plants he ordered for the garden on May 4th. Planting will be on May 18th at 1PM.

VII. **Communications**

VIII. **Other Business**

Motion: To pay \$475 for NHACC annual dues.

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

IX. **Future Agenda Items**

X. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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