



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 6:00 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES
APPROVED 5/16/2019**

Mr. Dickerman called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and asked for a roll call.

I. Roll Call

Present: Gary Dickerman, Steve Wood, Scott Magnuson, Kim Gogan (at 6:15 PM), Eileen Skowronski, John Hurley

Absent: Olivia Uyizeye

II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)

a. March 21, 2019

Motion: To accept

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

III. Finance Report – The Commission noted that the NHACC membership dues had been paid.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Old Business

a. Ashley Ferry Boat Landing – update

Mr. Dickerman said that at the moment the access road is closed. The City is planning culvert repairs some time next week, depending on rain and river height. Due to the high river level, we may have to postpone our clean-up activities scheduled for the 27th. Mr. Dickerman will continue to monitor the situation and keep everyone informed.

We were notified too late of the high school's volunteer day to be able to engage any students for this project.

b. Action on bills before legislature

Mr. Hurley gave the following refresher:

- Bills go into a committee where one of three things can happen:
 - If the committee approves the bill and feel it should be passed, they send it to the House or Senate with an “ought to pass”

- If the committee does not approve of the bill, they send it out to the larger chamber with an “inexpedient to legislate”
- If there is something they don’t understand or are unsure about, they can retain it in their committee

There were ten bills in the latest NHACC legislative update. Mr. Hurley said some of them have been retained in committee; some were deemed inexpedient to legislate; five have gone to the other house (House to Senate). Mr. Hurley asked if the Commission wanted to send a letter of support for any of these five bills.

Mr. Dickerman asked what the Commission had responded to when the bill was in the House? Mr. Hurley said we had done it on a bill that isn’t part of this group (regarding wildlife corridors). That bill passed the Senate is now in the House. It was agreed to send a letter of support on it to the House.

The Commission decided to send letters of support on the following bills:

- HB 281 - permitting the installation of "beaver deceiver" water flow control devices for the purpose of discouraging beaver damming and reducing the risk of flooding. (Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee)
- HB 326 - further defining prime wetland for local protection in dredge and fill permits. (Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee)
- HB 682-FN - establishing a water resources fund in the department of environmental services and charging certain application and permit fees. (Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee)
- HB 558 - prohibiting food service businesses from providing a single-use plastic straw to a customer unless specifically requested. (Senate Commerce and Consumer Affairs committee)
- HB 560 - restricting the use of single-use carryout bags by stores and food service businesses. (Senate Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee)
- SB 200 - requiring the recognition and protection of wildlife corridors and habitat strongholds as a public good. (House Fish, Game and Natural Resources Committee)

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Hurley for keeping up with this important information.

(Ms. Gogan arrived here at 6:15.)

Mr. Wood asked if “single-use” included paper bags. Mr. Hurley read that “Single-use” means any type bag, including paper, that is meant to be used only once. The goal is to encourage reusable bags.

c. Student Projects – Update

Ms. Gogan has addressed the unworkably short notice she received from the school regarding volunteer day. There may still be some students that need hours that can help with other projects, but no students for the clean-up on the 27th at the moment.

d. Pollinator Garden at Stevens Brook- Reimburse Mr. Dickerman for plant purchase

Motion: To reimburse Gary Dickerman \$222.00 bill for the plant order listed on page 2 of the order form

Made by: Mr. Wood **Second:** Ms. Gogan

Vote: Unanimous in favor

VI. New Business

Mr. Hurley said he had attended a presentation on bears, sponsored by the Chester Conservation Commission. He said it was well-attended and asked if the Commission might like to host such an event. The Commission agreed it would make for a good program. Mr. Hurley said he would work on getting the speaker to come. As there are many other similar types of talks available, the Commission will look into creating a series of them. Some talks may involve being in the field, e.g. tree/mushroom/tracks identification-type talks. There was some discussion on the venue for the indoor talks – the Community Center perhaps?

Our guest speaker for tomorrow’s talk on invasive plant species has contracted the flu and will be unable to attend. The event will have to be cancelled. It will be rescheduled when Mr. Cygan is better.

VII. Communications

a. Forestry Notification – Chestnut Street (Map 193, Lot 2)

The Commission received a *Confirmation of Complete Forestry Notification* from the Wetlands Bureau for a logging project off of Chestnut Street (Tax Map 193, Lot 2). The affected lot is within Environmentally Significant Area #6 (ESA 6 – Arrowhead Forest area - *Natural Resources Inventory* for Claremont, 2013). ESA – 6 is significant because of:

- Large intact forest associated with a large unfragmented block (5,490 acres) extending beyond Claremont boundary
- Presence of focal species
- Diverse habitats providing habitat connectivity to the south
- Presence of 3 high ranked wetlands.

Primary concerns of the Commission were about potential disturbance of vernal pools and the species who use them this time of year and enforcement.

It was agreed that the Commission should send a letter to DES and inform them of the significance of this parcel within its broader context and expressing their concern regarding enforcement.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Dickerman said the County was working with the Maple Avenue School to establish an access to Moody Park from behind the school. However, the Parks and Recreation

Commission was not in favor of the proposal for a variety of reasons, some of which may be misinformation. Mr. Dickerman will look into it.

IX. Future Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16th. May 18th will be the pollinator garden planting at Stevens Brook at 1PM. Ms. Skowronski will work on creating a planting plan.

X. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

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

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

deForest Bearse