

**Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes of**  
**9/20/23**

**PRESENT:** Tim Lovell, Neil Lynch, Steve Ungerer, Karen Cozzens, Brent Ebner (arrived at 7:15) and Jim Wilkinson.

Mr. Lovell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**Minutes: Mr. Lovell made a motion to accept the minutes of 7/19/23. Mr. Lynch seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 Motion passes.**

**The August meeting had been cancelled.**

**Real estate items**

The parcel located on Map 12 Lot 49 is in the process of being accepted. This is a very wet area and is being donated by the property owner.

A survey for Map 3 Lot 31 located on Big Island Pond will cost approximately \$17K. The NH Forestry Society will cover half of the cost. Mr. Lovell is in the process of getting quotes. \$8K will be placed in the budget for the work. Mr. Wilkinson said that this is a very difficult area to survey. Two people moved the docks, and one refused.

**2024 Budget**

The Commission reviewed the budget for next year. They will look into which properties should be put into conservation easements.

There is an increase in the budget due to survey work and legal fees. Selectman Guthrie said that he is going to have a difficult time supporting the increases in the budget since Fire, DPW and Police will all have significant increases. Mr. Lovell said that he would try to tweak the numbers.

**Warrant Articles**

Mr. Wilkinson provided an update on the properties being proposed. The plan extends to 2027. Mr. Guthrie suggested that the Commission meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the parcels. Mr. Lovell said that the building codes are being eased, which makes easements more important. Mr. Wilkinson point out that the wetlands are being protected, which helps with the Town's water issues.

Mr. Lynch suggests looking at all of the neighborhoods so that different areas within the Town feel vested. Mr. Wilkinson said that the commission's warrant articles get the highest approval rating from the residents.

## **Trails**

Mr. Ebner said that work was being done on the bridge in Plaistow this summer. He will focus on the Hampstead bridge in November. Mr. Lovell said that some Scouts would like to work on one of the bridges. Mr. Ebner suggested that specifications be given to the Scouts.

The fields have been cut twice this year due to the invasives. Four cuts will be done next year and a difference should be seen. Shop Pond has been treated, Nantucket is using the same products and company as Hampstead.

There was a discussion about the parking lot in Derry to access the trail system. DPW could put in a parking area with a tractor.

Mr. Wilkinson said that for the 275<sup>th</sup> celebration he would like to draw up a map of the foundation and the farm off of West Road, there was also a corral. It would cost between \$1700 and \$1800 to clear out the area.

There was a discussion about a rebuilt old mill in Fremont from the 1700s.

## **Mushrooms**

Ms. Cozzens said that she went to the Mushroom presentation at the library. The presenter said that some mushrooms could give you a stomachache if you don't cook them well enough but there shouldn't be any that kill you. Don't forage for mushrooms along a trail because that is where dogs and humans travel. Don't take the large ones because they are too tough. Mushrooms will regrow overnight.

Mr. Wilkinson will map the Whitcher trail, the airplane crash site and Collette's Mountain and then get the maps printed. MTBs are using the Randal parcel. A deterrent needs to be in place. He would like to get the Town Pound cleared out for the 275th anniversary.

Mr. Cozzens is collecting native seeds for the UNH extension.

S. Theriault provided information concerning the current use that is due which will be deposited into the land purchase fund. The Endicott parcels are receiving 19K in current use, half of which will go into the fund. Depot development is also in current use.

**Mr. Lovell made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Wilkinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Next meeting 11/15/23

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Theriault, Recording Secretary