

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of
March 17, 2021**

PRESENT: Tim Lovell, Jim Wilkinson, Steve Ungerer, David Treat, Brent Ebner, Neil Lynch and Neil Reardon,

GUESTS: Karl Schumacher, Darlene Cote, Paul Schofield and Mike O'Neill

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

Minutes

Mr. Lovell made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 17, 2021. Mr. Steve Ungerer seconded the motion. Vote: 6-0-1 (Mr. Lynch abstained)

Stone for Hadley/Golden Meadow and Stage Roads quotes

Mr. Lovell spoke with the contractor of Hadley and he will fix the access road to the conservation land. Neil Lynch mentioned stonework on Golden Meadow and Tim Lovell said that they could drop a yard of stone in the washed out area if needed.

Invasive Project updates

Mr. Treat said that he had one class already and will have another one tomorrow. Right now they are talking about identifying invasive species and not the management portion yet. There are 27 listed species in NH that are non-native that caused damage either economically or environmentally. Mr. Lynch asked if the solution could cause more damage than the invasive species. Mr. Treat said that it is possible but early detection and early response is important.

Shop Pond will be treated. Mr. Reardon wondered about the affects of the chemicals. Mr. Lovell was told that he was doing the right treatments. The chemicals will knock out the weeds for several years. Big Island Pond is trying to irradiated milfoil.

Mr. Wilkinson asked if Wash Pond is ever invaded, would conservation help? Mr. Lovell doesn't think that they would, there is no public boat launch. Mr. Treat said that Shop Pond is part of the Town Forest and that is why Conservation would treat Shop Pond. The lilies will survive but they will get beaten up a little. The lilies are something that they shouldn't get rid of.

Harvesting Trees for Trails

Mr. Ebner should be able to get the trees soon. Mr. Reardon asked about the blowdowns. Mr. Ebner said that surprisingly there aren't many out there.

Remove Bridge West Road

Mr. Lovell said that they will fix the West Road bridge next week. They will chain saw it out and hopefully keep one telephone poll in place. The bridge had been built to carry large lawn tractors. The supports are 7X12 oak. Mr. Reardon asked about motorized

vehicles are allowed on the bridge. Mr. Lovell said that the bridge built for large lawn mowers, they mow the fields to reduce ticks.

Map updates/State GIS

Mr. Wilkinson is almost finished with mapping the East side. Points of interest have been marked. The GIS mapping for the town is on state maps. He is working with Debbie Soucy in planning and CAI for the metadata. He doesn't want to destroy the metadata. The area information is dated, about 15 years old. It doesn't match the parcel lines. The stonewalls are mapped out. There is historical value in the walls and the State has an inventory of old stone walls. It is easier to find the boundary lines with the walls. The updates will be done by 4/23 or a fee of about \$250 per submission after that date.

The stone wall at West Road was beaten up by the plows, Mr. Worthen will be asked to have someone go out and fix them.

Leaving objects on trails

Painted rocks and stuffed animals have been observed on the trails. People will pick-up the shamrocks after the event. One person thought that it was litter to see these items on the trail system. The stuffed animals appear mostly at the junctions. Perhaps it is to help people find their way back there are even Christmas ornaments. Mr. Ebner mentioned that a bench in Plaistow was painted very tastefully, however had it not been it would have looked like graffiti. He warned about escalations over time. There were some last year now but it is getting worse. Mr. Wilkinson said that people will be able to find their way out with the updated maps. There was a discussion on allowing items temporarily, and then to be removed later on. The Friendship rocks are not temporary, Mr. Wilkinson doesn't see an issue with these. Mr. Lynch said that one person's experience is another person's eyesore. For instance, the pink flamingo has been up for one year, now there are 6 other items like stuff animals stuck in a tree. M. Ebner didn't think anything of it until it was brought to his attention. Some of these items are on personal property.

There was a discussion concerning owners walking their dogs and leaving feces behind. The Commission noted that this problem had improved with signage but some owners still do not pick up after their pets.

Painted rocks can remain on the trails for one month and then will be picked up. Stuff animals will be removed promptly. Residents should ask for permission to leave painted rocks, i.e. Shamrock rocks.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to update the trail rules to allow painted rocks for 30 days with permission. All other items shall not be placed on conservation property. Mr. Lynch seconded the motion Vote 7-0.

Visitor Comments

Mike O'Neill of 29 Hadley Road thanked the Commission for all of the work that it does. He asked the Commission what the rules are for the Hadley parking lot. Mr. Lovell said that it will be closed from dusk to dawn and in the winter. Mr. Lovell spoke with both the

Fire and Police Chiefs, both of whom supported the parking lot. Mr. O'Neill said that there are two houses on Hadley and people are traveling at a decent speed. He said that there are 16 children under the age of 9 on Hadley (including other neighborhood road(s)). Mr. O'Neill asked, since the development is so new, why is there a push for this parking lot? He was aware of the parking lot before he moved in. He would prefer that people park in the cul-de-sac. There was a discussion concerning parking in the cul-de-sac and the safety of others. Mr. Reardon expressed his concern, that as long as there are roads and cars there can be a fatality. O'Neill asked if there was a traffic study done. The impact can't be known because the development is too new. Mr. Lovell said that 4 to 5 cars in the cul-de-sac could impede emergency vehicles and equipment. Mr. Treat mentioned that complaints have come in concerning parking on cul-de-sacs. Mr. Wilkinson said sometimes people park in the middle of the cul-de-sac. Mr. Lovell said that the parking lot has been there since August but a smooth access ramp needs to be constructed. There will be gravel and a culvert at the bottom. He expects the work to be completed by the end of the month. Mr. O'Neill said that the impact is greatest on himself and his neighbors. He suggested that the Commission wait to see if a parking lot is needed. Real estate is more valuable at the end of cul-de-sacs verses busy roads; people pay more to live on cul-de-sacs. Mr. Lovell reiterated that cul-de-sacs are not a safe place to park and have families getting out of their cars. Mr. Ebner said that the Commission seeks to provide benefits to many not just a few. To help with the speeding vehicles, signs could be placed saying "slow children". Mr. O'Neill questioned the effectiveness of signage.

The Commission reiterated that this topic has been discussed in public for at least two years.

Mr. O'Neill cited an RSA about plans going before the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board. According to the Commission, it is not necessary unless there is a substantial change and a parking lot is not a substantial change. Hadley Road used to be open all the way into Plaistow and there were woods roads off of Hadley. Mr. Ebner said that before the Hadley neighborhood was built and the road was improved, there used to be cars parked all over the streets to access the property.

Bench Update

Ms. Cote gave an update on the benches and said that she can have another one donated to conservation. It will be the same color as the last one. The Commission thanked her for her all of her work.

Trail System

Mr. Wilkinson gave three examples of where the trail system could be extended. Mr. Lovell said that if there is something of interest then the trails could be extended.

Mr. Schumacher said that the items placed in the woods might be place there in order to get the children out and onto the trail system.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reardon. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:45 PM.

The next meeting will be held on April 21, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Theriault