

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of
July 21, 2021**

PRESENT: Tim Lovell, Jim Wilkinson, Steve Ungerer, Brent Ebner, Neil Reardon, Neil Lynch and Erin O'Neill.

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

Minutes

Mr. Lovell made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 19, 2021. Mr. Lynch seconded the motion. Vote: 6-0-2 (Ms. O'Neill, and Mr. Lynch abstained). Motion passes.

Old Business/ Fall Activities and Foraging

There are a lot of mushrooms growing along the trails on the conservation land, the Commission might want to look at a foraging event this year but thought that it might be too late with all of the rain we have had. The name of the past Forager was given to Ms. O'Neill. She also mentioned that Geocaching would be good, she would like to get activities for children. Art in the woods was also mentioned as well as story time at the library. There was a discussion concerning a Facebook page.

A target range was spotted off of the Dustin parcel near Spring Brook. Mr. Lovell spoke with an individual and explained that it was too dangerous. He believes it has been resolved but also mentioned that the police should be called if it continued to be a problem.

UNH Grad project

Mr. Lovell met a student who was studying animals in the Darby Brook area. Cameras are placed at knee height to capture the animals. The cameras are not located on the trails. Ms. O'Neill will follow up with the UNH student.

Beaver activity

There are a number of dams in the Starwood Drive area. After taking one dam down it was rebuilt immediately. The trail was completely under water. There were a number of fallen trees and five beaver dams. Mr. Lovell met a DOT employee who said that this is a never ending problem.

Logging in Plaistow

Plaistow is logging a large portion of its conservation land due to diseased hemlocks. The wood will be chipped for fuel. UNH is trying to figure out a way to mitigate the problem. There are a number of hemlocks over by the covered bridge. As a result, the Hampstead trails might get more usage from hikers.

Maps

Since Plaistow is doing forestry work and changing the trails, Mr. Wilkinson thought that it would be best not to put the large maps up until after the timber harvest is finalized. Smaller maps could be laminated and then placed on the three main trailheads. The Plaistow trails will have to be redone. There was a discussion on the cost for the maps. Mr. Ebner mentioned the supplies that he will need for the sign posts.

The maps that will be needed are 1 at Golden Meadow, 6 at the trail heads and 2 on the West Road, advertising the East side.

New Business

There will be a project to redo the sign and install granite posts at Shop pond. The flower beds and benches will also be rebuilt.

Endicott development

A wetland permit has come in and Mr. Lovell will conduct a site walk along Endicott, a number of other members may accompany him. There will be a posting advising of the site walk. It will be scheduled for this Saturday at 7AM.

Trex bench update

Ms. Cote provided the Commission with an update concerning her bench project. She said that Conservation may want to move the mill site bench to get a better view. Right now is chained to a tree. Ms. Cote was thanked for her efforts in collecting bags in exchange for benches.

Mr. Ebner would like to build another bridge on the Plaistow/Atkinson town lines. He would like to change the covered bridge from a ramp to steps to reduce slipping and sliding.

The Hadley parking area needs work, it might take as much as \$10K Some of which might fall under the ARPA grant.

Adjourn

Mr. Lovell made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ebner. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on August 18, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Theriault