

**Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes of**  
**1/17/24**

**PRESENT:** Tim Lovell, Steve Ungerer, Karen Cozzens, Neil Lynch, David Treat, Brent Ebner and Jim Wilkinson.

**GUEST:** Joe Guthrie, Selectmen Liaison

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

**Minutes: Mr. Lovell made a motion to accept the minutes of 11/15/23. The motion was seconded By Mr. Ungerer. Vote: 5-0-2 (Mr. Lynch and Ms. Cozzens abstain) Motion passes.**

**Warrant Article**

The Commission discussed the warrant article concerning the conservation easement. Mr. Wilkinson put together a list of parcels for the Town to approve. One of the parcels is located at the transfer Station. The DPW department and a member of the Selectboard would like to consider whether the parcel has value as it relates to expanding the Transfer Station. Mr. Wilkinson only recommends parcels that have little to no development potential. The parcel in question is very wet. However, the Commission will wait until the Town does a study to see if the land has any value in terms of expansion. Other members of the commission expressed concern about the increase in traffic should the transfer station be developed, as well as water quality with increase in traffic and trucking. The Commission was willing to take this parcel out warrant article until the Town decides if it has any value towards expansion. Mr. Wilkinson mentioned that he would not recommend a parcel that had any value.

Mr. Guthrie explained that the DPW Director said that they could move the department to the transfer station and a new garage be built there because at some point the garage will have to be replaced. This would be at no cost for the Town according to J. Guthrie. This is also something for the Capital Improvement Committee to look at. Mr. Treat said that the transfer station could be somewhere else as well.

Article 17, to close Whither Road, The Commission discussed this petition warrant article and stated that the abutter is already storing their stuff on Whitcher Road. It was noted that access to the Town Forest off of Whitcher Road is gained through a private road and not by Whitcher Road which connects to Route 111. Mr. Lovell said that this doesn't really affect the Conservation land and they will leave the recommendations up to the Board of Selectmen.

Donated land that is located across from Starwood Drive on the other side of Route 111 is having some title issues. The Commission is not interested in the land unless the title is cleared at the expense of the landowner. The Commission has already paid legal fees to try to clear it up. The landowner is currently paying taxes on the property. The land is predominantly wetland with 4 beaver dams.

**Annual Report review**

The Commission reviewed and approved the report submitted by Mr. Lovell.

### **Snow Moon Walk**

Ms. O'Neill and Mr. Ebner will work on the details of the event.

### **2024 projects**

Mr. Wilkison said that trail markers are being removed. He is planning to paint the trail markers on the trees instead.

A survey will be conducted on the SNHPF property at Big Island Pond. provided the budget passes. The fields will be cut twice a year instead of once to combat the Bittersweet. The Commission will hold off on the burning bush removal for one year to see how the remediation has worked.

For the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Mr. Wilkinson will be working on researching the land and foundation of an old homestead, which could be one of the oldest. He will map out any interesting features of the property.

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

Meeting ended at 7:40PM

Next meeting 2/21/24

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Theriault, Recording Secretary