

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes of
September 15, 2021**

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

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

Guest: Karen Cozzens

Minutes

Mr. Lynch made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of August 18, 2021 as amended. Mr. Wilkinson seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-2 (Mr. Ebner and Mr. Lovell abstained). Motion passes.

Old Business

Mr. Lovell provided copies of the wetland buffer zone diagram, which was part of a prior presentation. Mr. Lovell receives several calls a year about neighbors along the waterfront who cut down limbs or trees for a better view. Dangerous trees can be removed as needed. Healthy trees can also be trimmed but not cut down. The Department of Environment Services does not want shrub cut because shrubs help reduce runoff.

New Business

Karen Cozzens was present to discuss a project that she would like to spearhead. BioBlitz gets communities involved in natural resources. The BioBlitz can focus on town forests, animals or insects. The data that is collected goes into repository. UNH extension collects the data from the towns and offers to sponsor different towns in this effort. The Commission was very receptive to this project and would like Ms. Cozzens to pursue this project.

She provided the Commission with her background and her interest in becoming a member. Ms. Cozzens would like to get this project started sometime in November. Mr. Lynch was wondering if invasive species would also be considered with an intent to remove the plant. The BioBlitz could be personalized for Hampstead and he is willing to work with Ms. Cozzens on the project. Mr. Lynch mentioned that the National Historic Park does this as well.

Mr. Wilkinson reminded people about the purple loosestrife around the pond.

Mr. Reardon questioned the charity exemption of camp Tel Noar. He was advised that the camp pays via PILOT program, payment in lieu of taxes.

E-bikes

Mr. Wilkinson did some research on e-bikes. There are three classes. Class 1, was up to 20 mph with no throttle, class 2 was up to 20 mph with throttle and class 3 was up to 28 mph without peddle assist. The federal government allows class 1. 36 states have adopted an e-bike law. In State parks the motorized vehicle rules apply. The Conservation Commission doesn't allow motorized vehicle and the trails are all dirt trails. For the time being, the Commission will do nothing, class 1 would be allowed based on the classification of the e-bike. If there is privately owned land, the Commission would have to work with the private property owners, as well as Plaistow and Atkinson.

Class 1 would not do any additional damage to the trails. RSA 259 has been rewritten to exclude E-bikes.

Mr. Lovell made a motion to table the e-bike rules at this time Mr. Ungerer seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Eagle Scout recognition

Mr. Wilkinson said that he could do a Facebook post. Mr. Ebner said that they should recognize the park benches too.

ARPA Funds

Mr. Lovell provided an update on the ARPA funds. The Department Heads as well as the Board of Selectmen seemed to support the purchase of the tools and the repairs to the entrance of Hadley Road parking.

General Comments

Mr. Treat recommended that people be advised that with the start of hunting season people should wear orange. There was a discussion on hunting. While the Commission said that there should be no hunting on Conservation land, "no hunting" signs have not been posted and therefore can't be enforced. Mr. Reardon said that home rule allows hunting. A "wear orange" sign should be posted on the main trail kiosk.

Adjourn

Mr. Lynch made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Treat. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 Pm.

The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Theriault