

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 5, 2022

APPROVED: 11/2/22

AGENDA: 2022 MONITORING REPORT
BRECK-PLANKEY SPRING – Updates/Maintenance
WORKSHOP - Wetlands Overlay/Permitting Checklist
WELCOME BINDER – Edits, Revisions, Materials
NEWFOUND LAKE WATER QUALITY STUDY WORKGROUP – Set meeting schedule

ATTENDING: Carroll Brown (Chair), Richard Batchelder (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Miller, Janet Cote, Richard Metcalf (via zoom)

OTHER: Christina Goodwin (Land Use Manager), Michelle McCaleb (Land Use Administrative Assistant), and Bill Haskell

Mr. Brown called meeting to order at 6:02 PM with a quorum present in-person.

Mr. Brown introduced Bill Haskell, who is interested in applying for the Conservation Commission Alternate position. Mr. Haskell cited his interest and his background working for NH on dams statewide and shared some experiences, information, and history about local dams.

Ms. Goodwin introduced Michelle McCaleb as the new Land Use Administrative Assistant who will be attending meetings and providing meeting and administrative support to the Commission moving forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

2022 MONITORING REPORT – Ms. Goodwin reminded the Commission about the need to file a 2022 monitoring report for the Catterall Property Easement with the Forest Society. The actual monitoring visit was done on September 10, 2022, by Carroll Brown, Richard Batchelder, Elizabeth Miller, and Richard Metcalf. Mr. Batchelder shared that the new owner Chip Carleton accompanied them, and they walked the full boundaries of the main lot. Mr. Batchelder stated that Mr. Carleton was interested in complying with the easement restrictions and he hoped to do some clearing and other activities to improve views. Mr. Brown stated that they did not walk the portion which is across the road from the farm. Mrs. Miller indicated that she used the GPS mapping app she learned about at a recent workshop and expected to overlay that information on the town maps and share at next meeting. Mr. Batchelder and Mr. Brown both shared that the property looked good and there were no issues that would need to be addressed to comply with easement oversight. Mr. Batchelder stated that the owner had a new survey of the property which helped with the site visit. Ms. Goodwin asked if a copy of this could be obtained for the property file and will reach out to Mr. Carleton. Mr. Batchelder agreed to file the report with the Forest Society online and get copies to the Land Use Office for the file.

BRECK-PLANKEY SPRING - Mr. Brown reported that he had not yet been able to get to the Spring to conduct the quarterly water test. Ms. Goodwin reported that an anonymous donor had installed a new wooden grate over the trough part of the Spring outlet. The old grate was smaller, but it has been removed. She shared pictures she took of the new grate and some holes and ditch areas she noticed

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BRECK-PLANKEY SPRING - continued

when she visited the Spring. She was concerned about a few potholes in the gravel by the road and a deeper ditch area directly in front of the Spring trough. She asked the Commission if they would like to consider some maintenance to fill these holes and improve the ditch area in front the Spring. There was discussion of who may be responsible for the gravel area along Lake Street, and it was determined to be a State right of way area along the road, but the ditch area and Spring lots were Town property. The Commission discussed repair of the ditch area with some 1 ½-inch crushed stone. Use of gravel was suggested for the potholes near the road. Ms. Goodwin will talk with the Highway Department for assistance and charge any material costs to the Conservation Commission property maintenance line in the budget. Mr. Brown suggested that Commission members do the work.

NEW BUSINESS:

WORKSHOP – CONSERVATION CHECKLIST - Mr. Metcalf introduced the draft checklist and materials and suggested editing to produce a tool for members to use when reviewing land use applications. He stated that the information outlining the Wetlands Ordinance restrictions, and the sample NHDES checklist document, was his stab at incorporating jurisdictional items and State checklist items for consideration. He suggested that the Commission work to create a hybrid checklist using more laymen’s terms. His initial adaptation to the State checklist omits information concerning tidal areas which are not present in Bristol.

Discussion followed about the purpose of creating the checklist as a tool for the Commission to assist and remain consistent with the assessment of permit applications and individual impact evaluations of each application as necessary to protect wetland resources.

The Commission decided to use the State Checklist as a jump off point to develop its own checklist and highlight the specific areas of concern with questions that made sense for as many possible impacts or situations anticipated. The checklist should have check boxes format which would include a not applicable box (N/A).

Some of the questions and formatting suggested included the following:

1. Are State Permits Required?

Septic Design	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shoreland	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Checklist Y	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Were alternative designs/technologies/layouts considered to avoid or minimize wetland impacts?

For Septic?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
For Home/Building(s)?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
For Driveway?	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>

If answering yes to any of the above, please provide data.

WORKSHOP – CONSERVATION CHECKLIST - continued

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3. If adding fill or removing soils, are elevations noted in plans and are impacts defined with mitigation considered.
4. Do plans identify test pits, soils analysis and perc notes. Please indicate soil types found. (Add check boxes for all types to note)
5. Are there any impacts to natural habitat of flora and fauna?

It was decided that more time was needed to create this checklist. Mr. Brown suggested continuing this discussion at the next meeting. He asked Commission members to review the materials and Mr. Metcalf agreed to redo his draft with a note to the discussion and said he would reference the Zoning Ordinance sections as they applied to questions and applicable State checklist questions to create hybrid. Mr. Brown asked Commission members to share any questions they would like to include with Mr. Metcalf before the next meeting.

WELCOME BINDERS – Ms. Goodwin shared the updated introduction, binder materials and resource lists developed by Mrs. DeStefano for the Commission’s review, discussion, and consideration at the next meeting.

WATER QUALITY STUDY GROUP - Mr. Brown updated the Commission about the candidates recently communicating about participation in this study group. He stated that the first meeting date for this group needed to be set and suggested that all interested candidates should be invited to attend. This first meeting would be the time to share the scope and goals of the committee, set up the committee, and set the meeting schedule to move forward with research and other tasks.

Some correspondence was shared that indicated a wish for any scope of water quality study include the whole lake and abutting communities. There was some discussion of the scope and tasks with questions regarding focus on only the Bristol area of Newfound Lake. Mr. Brown stated that originally this was to be an opportunity to research an answer to taxpayer questions regarding the need or not to do a sewer project to protect the water quality of the lake. Ms. Goodwin shared that including other towns and further outreach would pose a need to update the scope. Mrs. Cote shared that including information from the State and the Newfound Lake Region Association would include data for whole lake and suggested that this Committee could look to broaden the scope to include other towns based on its outcomes at some future date if warranted.

Mrs. Cote stated she would like to be a part of this Committee and asked Ms. Goodwin if there were any issues if too many Conservation members served as related to quorum, minutes, and postings. Ms. Goodwin stated she would look at the Commission’s bylaws and RSA information to be sure.

After discussion, it was determined that the first meeting for the study group would be before the next Conservation Commission meeting on November 2, 2022, at 5 pm. Ms. Goodwin will send out notices, reserve meeting room and post meeting.

MINUTES:

After review, Mr. Batchelder motioned to approve the minutes of September 7, 2022, as written. Mrs. Miller seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote 5-0-0.

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After review and a clarification question by Ms. Goodwin resulting in a change to a site location, map, and lot, Mrs. Miller motioned to approve the September 10, 2022, Site Visit minutes as amended. Mr. Batchelder seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote 5-0-0.

COMMISSION MEMBER ITEMS:

Mr. Brown asked the Commission members when they would like to walk the Bennett Wetland property. It was determined that Mr. Brown would send out several Saturday and Sunday dates and times for everyone to consider. Mrs. Miller will use her GPS app again. Mr. Brown brought out some Conservation Commission property markers, he located, and stated these could be placed when visiting the property. Ms. Goodwin asked that date and attendance information be shared when confirmed so that, if necessary, this site visit can be posted, and minutes provided.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Newfound Lake Region Association Invitation

Ms. Goodwin reminded the Commission of an invitation to attend a Newfound Lake Water Shed Workshop on October 24, 2022, at 6 pm the Bridgewater Town Hall.

NEXT MEETING: November 2, 2022

Mr. Haskell re-expressed his interest in becoming an alternate and was instructed to submit his application to the Select Board before its next meeting to be appointed as Conservation Commission Alternate. If Select Board approves, he would be able to participate at next Conservation Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business, Mrs. Cote moved to adjourn. Mr. Batchelder seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote 5-0-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Cote
Land Use Associate