

Enfield Conservation Commission – Meeting Minutes
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/MICROSOFT
TEAMS PLATFORM
November 2, 2023

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Leigh Davis, Shirley Green (Vice-Chair), Edward Rippe, Kate Plumley Stewart (Selectboard Representative), Jerold Theis (Chair), Carol Wyman (Teams), John Welenc

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Whitney Banker-Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Craig Sanborn (Cardigan Highlanders Volunteer Trail Crew [CHVTC], Enfield Trail Master).

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chair Theis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and took attendance.

II. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES: October 5, 2023

Mr. Rippe MOVED to approve the October 5, 2023 Minutes presented in the November 2, 2023 agenda packet as presented.

Seconded by Ms. Davis

** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (4-0-2).*

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Shoreland impact permit 2023-02484 for 488 Shaker BLVD, Tax Map 24, Lot 2

Chair Theis asked for any details that members would like to send to NH DES. There were no questions that members wished to ask DES.

Ms. Wyman joined the meeting via Teams at this time (7:05 p.m.)

B. Request for more information STD Dredge and Fill Wetland Permit Application RSA 482-A for 226 Shaker BLVD Tax Map 27, Lot 2

The Conservation Commission has no input on this type of permit application. No members had questions or comments.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:**A. Hawley Drive Culvert Replacement (discussed during meeting – not on the agenda)**

Members discussed that there will likely be a future permit application for replacing a culvert on private road Hawley Dr.

Mr. Rippe provided a brief overview of the situation, which involves access to his property and others on Hawley Dr. The culvert is owned by the Hawley Drive Road Maintenance Association (HDRMA). The road association has hired Pathways LLC as an engineer for the project. Residents are also looking into retention ponds and rain gardens to help slow the runoff into the lake.

The number of residents directly affected by damage if the current culvert fails again is about 10. All residences owning property on the entire Crystal Lake would also be adversely affected due to stormwater runoff if the culvert fails again.

According to the Soak up the Rain NH website, based on the total lot sizes of Hawley Drive (a total lot size of 21 acres), a rain garden of about 2 acres would be needed to help with runoff to the lake.

V. CORRESPONDENCE**A. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Rules Update**

These changes are essential for members to know for future permits that come to the commission.

B. Budget appropriation report for Conservation Commission December 31, 2023

Of the \$2,675 budgeted for 2023, \$1951.52 has been spent. The balance remaining is \$723.48. 27.05% of the total budget for 2023 is projected to be leftover.

Members discussed next year's budget and anticipated expenses.

Ms. Stewart clarified that due to how budgets work in NH, towns begin spending their budget before it is voted on at town meetings in March. In general, departments try to spend at about the same rate as the year prior for those first few months. Funds can also be encumbered if there is a large project or invoice for a project the following year.

C. Bill Chabot, Canaan Conservation Commission Chair, regarding November 14, 2023, speaker Andrew French

Andrew French will give a talk relating to conservation, held on November 14, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the Mascoma Community Health Center (Route 4 and Roberts Rd, Canaan, NH).

81 If a quorum of members plans to attend, the meeting will need to be posted. Chair Theis will
82 contact Ms. Bonnette to post the meeting.

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86 **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

87 **A. Cardigan Highlanders Volunteer Trail Crew (CHVTC) Donation**

88 Mr. Sanborn explained that any donation to the CHVTC would need a check made out to the
89 Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA), with a note in the Memo line of the check for CHVTC.
90 Mr. Sanborn sent an email to Chair Theis with this information and the mailing address for the
91 UVTA.

92
93 Chair Theis asked members what amount they would like to donate. Ms. Davis suggested \$1000,
94 which had previously been discussed.

95
96 ***Ms. Green MOVED the Enfield Conservation Commission to donate \$1000 to CHVTC.***

97
98 Members agreed they felt comfortable with the donation amount of \$1000.

99
100 Ms. Stewart asked how the commission would plan to pay for the donation. Chair Theis said that
101 he intended to spend it from the Conservation Trust Fund. However, often, the town suggests
102 using the actual budget. Ms. Stewart said they could move to use the remainder of the budget,
103 with any remaining funds coming from the Conservation Trust Fund at the end of the year.

104
105 ***Ms. Green MOVED the Enfield Conservation Commission make a \$1000 donation to CHVTC***
106 ***from the Conservation Commission's bottom line budget, with any remaining funds to come***
107 ***from the Conservation Fund.***

108 ***Seconded by Ms. Davis***

109 **** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (7-0).***

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111 **Roll Call Vote:**

112 **Leigh Davis, Shirley Green (Vice-Chair), Edward Rippe, Kate Plumley Stewart**
113 **(Selectboard Representative), Jerold Theis (Chair), Carol Wyman (Teams), John Welenc**
114 **all voting Yea.**

115 **None voted Nay.**

116 **None Abstained.**

117
118 Ms. Davis suggested a springtime get-together for trail work interest with coffee and donuts as
119 an opportunity to continue to gather volunteers.

Members discussed additional outreach and education opportunities for Conservation in general. Ideas included continued EVS outreach, in-person speakers for wildlife corridors and other areas of interest (possibly from UNH extension), and senior center outreach.

C. Bicknell Brook Obstruction

Ms. Wyman reported that the owner of the obstruction (an old bridge detached and stuck along Bicknell Brook) plans to remove it. That same owner has reported vandalism along their property that abuts the trail. The Town Manager suggested that the Conservation Commission put up signage to direct the public away from the private property and to continue onto the town trail.

Ms. Stewart said private property/no trespassing signs can be found cheaply online.

Mr. Rippe MOVED to allow Ms. Wyman to obtain and place signage to direct the public away from the private property along the Bicknell Brook trail.

Seconded by Ms. Davis

**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (7-0).***

Roll Call Vote:

Leigh Davis, Shirley Green (Vice-Chair), Edward Rippe, Kate Plumley Stewart (Selectboard Representative), Jerold Theis (Chair), Carol Wyman (Teams), John Welenc all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

None Abstained.

VI. NEXT MEETING: December 7, 2023

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Davis MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Davis