

## Conservation Commission (Concom) Meeting Minutes March 13, 2024

**Present:** Gregg Thibodeau, Rob Traver, Mark Girard, Kathi Bradt, Scott Travers, Janet Slocum, Robin Ungeheuer

**Absent:** Jennifer Bland

**Public:** Lisa Hyatt, Steve Murray, Lynda Perry, Charlie Bradt (guest speaker)

**Meeting opened 7:01pm.**

**Review/approve minutes of February 13, 2024** – Motion made (Mark) to approve minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> (Janet). Motion passed.

### Public

- Charlie Bradt provided a description and overview of the hazardous waste handling for our town. Acworth provides funding to Keene that allows our residents to drop off hazardous waste at no additional charge.
    - <https://keeneh.gov/public-works/household-hazardous-waste-information>
- Charlie reviewed the type of materials that are considered hazardous and provided the Concom with sample publications from other towns. Charlie also pointed out some actions that other towns have taken. Our commission agreed to incorporate announcements into our planned Outreach program, which is in the early stages of development.
- Action:** Lisa is going to work with Charlie to create publications that we can use in our Outreach program. Charlie and Lisa will present what they develop at a future Concom meeting.

### Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**
  - Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,909.98 (+ \$0.32 interest)
  - Conservation Land Use Fund \$21,043.22 (+ \$1.73 interest)
  - Turbidity meter options Robin produced a list of possible meters with their capabilities and cost and a worksheet table with a summary to compare. Robin and Mark explained that the primary difference in cost is the level of precision. Mark believes we would best be served by a higher level of precision. Those devices are in the price range of about \$2000. We agreed to review the information and make a decision at our April meeting. **Action:** Mark/Gregg to send out Robins documentation to the commission.
- **Conservation Plan**
  - High Value Area (HVA) Map and Descriptions – Janet reviewed the updated HVA map and we reviewed the Keyes Hollow area map. A concern was raised that there may be a concern from individuals when they see the areas we have selected. Point was made that once a project is defined outreach with defined messaging will occur to engage the stakeholders. The areas give us a starting point further refinement about impacts etc., will occur with each project.
    - Action: Janet was going to look into options for creating wall sized 2’x4’ maps out of the QGIS software.
  - Climate Change Update – Gregg provided an overview of the training that he is involved with.
    - <https://adaptationworkbook.org/Acworthconcom1>
    - Project: Crescent Lake Gove Hill Stormwater Runoff – 4 streams that provide runoff into Crescent Lake from the Gove Hill area. The intent of this effort is to learn how to utilize the Adaptation Workbook to identify climate change goals, objectives, impacts, vulnerabilities, challenges, opportunities, and adaptation actions within a given project area.
    - Adaptation Workbook Process:
      - Step 1. DEFINE areas of interest, management goals and objectives. Defined 4 management topics & 10 goals.
      - Step 2. ASSESS climate change impacts and vulnerabilities for the area of interest. Identified 38 potential climate impacts and 4 vulnerabilities.
      - Step 3. EVALUATE management objectives given projected impacts and vulnerabilities.

- 15 objectives have been evaluated.
  - Step 4. IDENTIFY adaptation approaches and tactics for implementation.  
This step is in-progress. 1 tactic has been defined to date.
  - Step 5. MONITOR and evaluate effectiveness of implemented actions.  
This is the final step in the process.
  - This process can be leveraged for any area or conservation project that we work on. The process will define the climate impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation actions for a given area or project.
  - There is a tremendous amount of data already assessed that this tool leverages.
- Next Steps
  - Create goals for each of the 5 HVA's.
- **2024 Commission Actions**
  - Review and determine actions for one of our HVA areas.
    - We reviewed what actions are in-progress for all of our HVA's. (see attached worksheet) [Current Natural Resource Actions worksheet](#)
    - We decided on the following actions:
      - Focus on Keyes Hollow for the following reasons:
        - Largest wetland area in Acworth
        - Crescent Lake (CL) is the headwaters and Cold River (CR) the primary beneficiary of any conservation efforts in Keyes Hollow. Cold River is a protected river in NH. A large section of Cold River is in Acworth. Both CL and CR play a critical role in the watershed that spans from CL down to Honey Brook State Forest.
        - Keyes Hollow wetland is a very large wetland.
        - The Town with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) owns 2/3rds of the wetland property.
        - Only 4-6 other property owners abut the wetland areas.
      - Mark – Review list of agencies to determine which agencies might support our effort
      - Gregg – Reach out to DES wetlands and schedule an initial conversation.
  - Outreach Actions – We agreed to the following Outreach actions this year:
    - Green-Up Day 20 April – Flyers, newsletter article and Facebook posts (Jen)
    - Quarterly/Season Newsletter (all)
      - Would highlight plant and wildlife information for upcoming seasons, and could have other hot topics like hazardous materials, conservation plan, etc.
      - Produced quarterly, limited to 1 page.
      - First newsletter content to be created at our April meeting. First letter to be published end of April.
      - Action: Gregg to develop an annual schedule.
    - Conservation Plan Overview (Sep/Oct)
    - Volunteer Day – Keyes Hollow Nature Trail Restoration & Wetland Overview
    - Conservation Plan Survey (Oct/Nov)
    - Publish Conservation Plan – 2024/2025 Annual Report

## Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**
  - Green Up Day – April 20 or 21 – Did not discuss this item.
  - Intents to Cut
    - 23-001-22 – Maps and lots: 236-9, 239-6, 239-5; River Road; Bassine Family Trust; Granite State Forestry; 220 acres – 190 to cut; 168 MBF – 4200 tons pulpwood – 200 cords of cordwood. Approved by Select Board 1/15/24. No concerns raised. Mark reviewed the site and they are following best management practices with appropriate equipment.
  - Wetlands Permit Application – Sanville Map 210 – Lot 37. We received a copy of the engineer's submission. No further actions required.

- South Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – Forester inventory is in progress; establish goals is next. A meeting is being planned for the first week of April. Rob, Mark and Gregg to attend meeting with forester.
- Land Surveys - Crescent Lake (map 201, lots 107 and 108) – awaiting additional survey follow-on work; still no update. **Action:** Gregg to draft a letter to Eric stating the importance of the work and schedule. Also provide an exit strategy that would ensure we get all the work that Eric has accomplished to date and pay him accordingly but allow us to pursue engaging a different surveyor.
- Easement Monitoring
  - 5 Points, Roy Sugar House, Moody/Bascom LCIP (Jen) – Assessment complete; posting in-progress.
  - Pan-Northern Pierce Brook SPNHF (Jen) – Assessment complete; posting in-progress.
    - Meet-and-greet introductory session with the new owner. Pending.
- Update Prouty/Honey Brook Property - Map 250 lot 2; deed language confirmed. Next step is to execute the deed.
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
  - Shoreland Permit Issues – Update Map 201, Lot 106 Fong. Violation of RSA 483-B:9 (V) confirmed. Restoration Plan Approved. Fong received a list of 22 requirements from DES to be complete prior to 3 June 2024.

### Communications, Training and Outreach

- **Training-Education**
  - NH Association of Conservation Commissions - <https://www.nhacc.org/resources/resources>
- **Community Outreach**
  - Volunteer Field Events – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
  - Other educational topics – Climate change impacts; shoreland and wetland restrictions/limitations/requirements, property conservation options, conservation plan
- **Next Meeting** – 10 April 2024 at 7pm in the Town Hall.
- **Meeting Adjourned** – 8:38pm.

### Conservation Commission Members:

- Jennifer Bland
- Gregg Thibodeau
- Kathi Bradt, Select Board Rep
- Mark Girard
- Scott Travers
- Janet Slocum
- Rob Traver
- Robin Ungeheuer (alt)

### Contact information:

- Webpage <https://www.acworthnh.net/conservation-commission>
- E-mail [acworthconservation@gmail.com](mailto:acworthconservation@gmail.com)
- Meeting 7:00 p.m. every 2nd Wednesday of month at the Town Hall
- Mail 13 Town Hall Rd., P.O. Box 37, Acworth, NH 03601, Attention: Conservation Commission
- Phone 603-835-6879 (town office)