

Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda October 11, 2023

Present: Kathi Bradt, Janet Slocum, Gregg Thibodeau, Scott Travers, Jennifer Bland, Rob Traver

Absent: Robin Ungeheuer, Mark Girard

Public: Steve Murray

Motion made (ST) and seconded (JS) to approve the minutes of September 13, 2023. Motion passed.

Public

- Steve Murray asked for an update on actions to address violations occurring on Crescent Lake. Following actions were reviewed:
 - Educational and Informational Efforts
 - Water Quality Group (WQG) is creating an introductory mailer with 3 handouts, one of the handouts specifically addresses the shoreland permit requirements.
 - Acworth Concom (ACC) has updated the town webpage with information for permits.
 - WQG will have periodic educational mailers and live events throughout the year.
 - ACC will also be developing educational events in 2024 according to our recently prioritized topics and natural resource areas.
 - DES Complaints
 - WQG is working with Crescent Lake Association (CLA) to draft a process for potential DES violations that would foster initial conversations prior to submission of complaints to DES and clarify roles in the process.

Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,908.36 (+\$0.35 interest)
 - Conservation Land Use Fund \$17,460.29 (+\$1.58 interest)
- **Conservation Plan**
 - Overall Plan Updates (GT)
 - GT to continue to update the plan as sections are completed. Members agreed that the content looked good. Significant topics still pending include, geology, soils, climate change and priority resource areas. Priority resources areas are being addressed in this meeting.
 - Geology, Soils, etc. (RU)
 - RU was not able to attend this meeting. This topic will be reviewed at our next meeting.
 - Natural Resources/Co-Occurrences (JS)
 - JS reviewed 12 groupings of the co-occurrences. The members agreed that the groupings were representative of the important known areas and make sense. It was also agreed that a priority list could be developed.
 - The following areas were considered low priority, generally because of limited co-occurrences and/or impact to watersheds outside of Acworth watersheds and/or limited climate change risk
 - Acworth Northwest Corner – impacts Little Sugar River Watershed - Unity
 - Pierce Brook – impacts Little Sugar River Watershed - Unity
 - East Great Brook – impacts Little Sugar River Watershed – Unity
 - Chatterton Pond – limited co-occurrences
 - The following areas were prioritized in the following order:
 - 1) Crescent Lake/Cold River, Keyes Hollow and Honey Brook
 - 2) Mitchell Pond and Bowers Brook
 - 3) 5 Points and Crane Brook
 - One area that we did not discuss was the Copeland Brook, which is a 2nd or 3rd order stream and pond that feeds Crescent Lake. We will discuss this resource area at our next meeting.
 - **Action Item:** GT to update the Conservation Plan with this information and create a matrix of resource areas and resource topics.

- Rare, Endangered and Invasive Species (RT)
 - RT visited [Distance Garden](#) in Alstead to discuss rare, endangered and invasive species. Distance Garden is an environmental and horticultural learning center. It is a highly recommended garden to visit.
- Climate Change – GT is attending a Yale weekly series on climate change.
- **Bylaws** – No changes

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**
 - Intents to Cut - None
 - Building, excavation, and other permits - None
 - Forestry complaints, concerns & other actions
 - Dodge Hollow Update – **Action Item:** GT to meet with the abutters to discuss design option and abutter involvement.
 - Forester actions and plans – forester work order was signed by Select Board and initial payment made. **Action Item:** Concom to create our guidance/input at our next meeting to be discussed with the forester and incorporated in the forest management plan.
 - Surveyor action and plans – Eric to schedule a review with KB and GT to review some issues that were identified in the survey. **Action Item:** GT to contact Eric.
 - Tree Warden actions and plans – none
 - Easement Monitoring – 2023 assignments made, please complete monitoring prior to 1 Dec.
 - **Action Item:** JB to coordinate an introductory meeting with GT and the current owner of the Fred Ernst property.
 - Town Owned Land Management
 - Update Prouty/Honey Brook Property - Map 250 lot 2 – the state is reviewing our request and questions.
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Shoreland Permit Issues – Haynes permit submitted; Map 201 Lot 92 – Dishong. DES instructed landowner to remove the lift and dock and submit a shoreland permit. Dock has been removed.
 - Crescent Lake Water Quality Project Update

Communications, Training and Outreach,

- **Training-Education**
 - Conservation Commission Webpage - <https://www.acworthnh.net/conservation-commission>
 - Recommendation was made (RT) to add information on options for landowners to conserve their property.
 - **Action Item:** Members to review the web page and make recommendations at our next meeting.
 - NH Association of Conservation Commissions – Annual Meeting 6 November – near Hookset - <https://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting> members-\$60 prior to October 28th. \$70 post Oct 28th.
 - Session options: <https://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting/workshops>
 - GT and RT to attend and represent Acworth Concom.
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – GT shared the Cost Share Funding Quick Guide (handout) and Rob provided an overview of his meeting with NRCS. **Action Item:** GT to scan and make available the NRCS Quick Guide.
- **Community Outreach**
 - Volunteer Field Events – Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup. Keyes Hollow Nature Trail
 - Educational topics – Climate Change Impacts; Shoreland and wetland restrictions, limitations and requirements.
- **Next Meeting** – 8 November 2023 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Motion made to close the meeting at 8:15pm. Motion passed.

Conservation Commission Members:

- Jennifer Bland, jlb1365@att.net 860-601-2223
- Gregg Thibodeau, Gregg@thibodeaufamily.com 860-338-3227
- Kathi Bradt, Select Board Rep, kasbradt@msn.com, 835-2567
- Mark Girard, gothabitat@yahoo.com 603-851-2785
- Scott Travers, pamscottdave@gmail.com (603) 863-6636
- Janet Slocum, jslobvan@hotmail.com (413) 336-1145
- Robin Ungeheuer (alt), galena6@hotmail.com

Contact information:

- Webpage <https://www.acworthnh.net/conservation-commission>
- E-mail 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