

SUNAPEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 5, 2023 Meeting Notes

Present: Van Webb, chairman, Tim Fleury, vice chairman, Ginny Gwynn, treasurer, Cliff Fields, Barbara Chalmers, Matt Hurd, Sylvia Kellner

Doug Hanson (yet to be appointed to ConCom by selectmen and sworn in)

Van called the meeting at Town Hall to order at 7:03.

1. MINUTES

- **Motion** by Tim to approve March minutes, 2nd by Ginny. Cliff abstained. Vote unanimous in favor.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Report: Ginny provided a written summary of the status of all accounts. She noted that the 2022 funds from current use change tax have been deposited along with operating funds from passage of 2023 budget, but that the Con Com Fund appropriation is yet to be deposited. Invoices approved in March have not yet shown up in last statement. Van noted that the 2022 end of year balance of \$177 is supposed to move to 2023 Con Com Fund. Ginny will track that. Funds allocated to Supplies will be short. Van and Tim thanked Ginny for a great job and understandable report. **Motion** by Matt to accept the treasurer's report, 2nd by Cliff, Vote unanimous in favor.
Pending: Current Use Change Tax quarterly reports from the town office to Ginny.

3. INVOICES

- Quality Name Plate invoice for 250 conservation land perimeter marking disks of \$504 with shipping which was paid by Barbara by credit card and delivered early last month. **Motion** by Ginny to reimburse Barbara for \$504 for the QNP disks and shipping, 2nd by Tim. Vote unanimous in favor.

4. MAIL

- 68 Burkehaven Lane: Complaint filed with DES, inspection made, no violation found.
- Meadow Brook Owners Assoc: DES granted dredge permit at boat dock.
- 196 Garnet Hill Rd: Sidebottom DES waiting for more information re dock replacement
- 15 Scotts Cove Rd, Martin: DES permit issued.
- 122 Garnet Hill Rd, Bruni: Application for shore stabilization during water draw-down.

5. VISITORS - none

6. OLD BUSINESS

- New Members: Sylvia needs to be sworn in by town clerk. Doug needs to be appointed by selectmen, then sworn in. FYI: Van and Tim have terms up in 2024.
- View Easement at Ryder Corner Road: Tim provided an overview of the issue for new members. Town attorney is reviewing easement to add language about requiring liability and workers comp insurance for tree work on town land, compliance with good forestry practices, observance of slash law boundaries, and 30-day prior notification of cutting to the town and conservation easement holder Ausbon Sargent. Tim has not yet talked with Josh Ginsburg to update him on status of easement deed. Tim to find out if Ginsburg has paid surveyor for his share of cost. Cliff noted that Dan Hayward also had a view easement in his deed. Tim noted that that his easement area is part of the total area surveyed for Ginsburg. **Action by Tim**
- Peer Review Meeting: Barbara attended March meeting. Discussion focused on Stagecoach Lane top of hill cell tower to be raised by 15-ft in height and logistics of Farmers

Market at Ben Mere Bandstand site. Barbara will continue to attend peer review meetings on an interim basis. **Action by Barbara**

- Planning Board NRI Cost Share: Shannon has not gotten back to Barbara. Barbara will reach out. **Action by Barbara**
- Update on Treehouse & QR Code for Rec Use Data from Cliff: QR Code is pending. Cliff reported treehouse lumber remains in a pile on the ground and has not been removed from the site because of access issues.
- Dewey Woods / Garnet Hill Park: March 22 date was canceled due to deep snow in the woods. Van will contact Meadows End for new possible dates in April and May. **Action by Van**
- NRI Corrections: Barbara reported that Olivia has made the map corrections and that have been checked by Barbara. Waiting for final revised digital file. Barbara will have copies made for the three bound reports and post correction to website. **Action by Barbara**
- Ledge Pond Trail Erosion: This site walk to be scheduled with Dewey Woods site walk. **Action by Van**
- NH Conservation Commission Assoc Wetland Training: Barbara reported that the 4 of 7 sessions so far have been interesting and informative. There are 3 sessions left, one in the field and one in Concord about best practices for review of DES permit applications by Con Com. The first 3 sessions can be viewed at youtube:
Session 1: Introduction to Wetlands Identification
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa--HLyvyoQ>
Session 2: Wetlands Laws and Jurisdiction
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sM2v7O9WKJc>
Session 3: NH DES On-line GIS Mapping Tools
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4JI3aMS1n0>

8. NEW BUSINESS

- April 27 Ausbon Sargent Con Com Round-table: To be attended by Ginny. She asked for input on discussion topics: Any trends in Current Use Change Tax amounts being seen? What processes do other commissions use to review DES applications? Status of funding of Cricenti Bog trail structure? **Action by Ginny**
- Barbara reported on an August 22 8:30-11 UNH Technology Transfer Center workshop at LSPA regarding winter salt / road maintenance and water quality for Con Coms and municipal road departments. Since water quality is a top Con Com concern, someone should attend. Cliff volunteered. Cost is \$25, registration at LSPA website. Con Com will reimburse. **Action by Cliff**
- Tim reported that Shannon contacted him regarding a question on town boundary. He is waiting to get more information about this.
- Ginny would like to see NRI Action Plan implementation as a standing agenda item to address and not to forget. All agreed. Goals to be reviewed by members before the

next meeting for discussion and task assignments to members. The Action Plan is attached to these minutes. **Action by All**

Reminder: conservationcommission@town.sunapee.nh.us emails to this address are being monitored by Barbara and all emails should be copied to, if not sent out via, this address. Access is through outlook.com

Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM. Next Meeting: May 3 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chalmers, secretary

Attachments

DRAFT

2022 Sunapee Natural Resources Inventory & Conservation Plan

1.01 Action plan

	Strategy Code	Action Type	Description	(Confirmed) Partners	Funding	Timeline (yrs)	Plus Strategies
LS1 - Planning and Zoning Collaboration	LS1-a	Partnership	Establish quarterly or bi-yearly communications on local regulatory topics among the planning, zoning and conservation commission in compliance with RSA 676:2.	PB, ZBA	NA	1	
	LS1-b	Partnership	Support Town staff to implement resource protection initiatives and administer code enforcement*	<u>Town Manager</u>	NA	Ongoing	
	LS1-c	Assessment	Consult with Water and Sewer Department on system capacity, condition, and expansion options, including those that would further higher village density and connection of homes on waterbodies with private septic systems.	<u>Water & Sewer Dept</u> , PB	CWSRF	2	LS3
	LS1-d	Assessment	Perform a build out analysis to evaluate and inform SCC zoning recommendations that align with conservation priority zones and inform implementation of the Town's 2023 Master Plan update. Consider application of the UVLSRPC Places for Homes.	<u>UVLSRPC</u> , PB, ZBA	InvestNH	1	LS2, LS3, MS3
	LS1-e	Education	Present 2022 NRI and Conservation Plan results to the public via Town Meeting, roundtable discussions, and presentations to local organizations.	<u>UVLSRPC</u> , <u>PB</u> , <u>LSPA</u>	TBD	Ongoing	
	LS1-f	Regulatory	Amend the zoning ordinance to reduce densities in rural areas and increase in village areas where connections to municipal water / sewer system are possible. Potentially informed by build-out analysis action*	PB, ZBA, <u>UVLSRPC</u>	InvestNH	2	
	LS1-g	Regulatory	Implement a Transfer of Development Rights provision to encourage preservation of rural lands*	PB, ZBA	InvestNH	TBD	LS2
	LS1-h	Regulatory	Introduce additional Low Impact Development provisions within zoning, subdivision, and site plan review*	PB, ZBA	InvestNH, LSWPG	TBD	LS2, LS3
	LS1-i	Regulatory	Incorporate into subdivision and site plan review regulations requirements to provide easements for trails connecting conservation and recreation areas*	PB, ZBA	TBD	3	MS2, MS1
	LS1-j	Regulatory	For renewable energy, adopt a site plan review which includes specific environmental considerations. For example, windmills with one blade painted show reduced wildlife collisions.*	Energy Committee	TBD	3	LS2

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	Strategy Code	Action Type	Description	(Confirmed) Partners	Funding	Timeline (yrs)	Plus Strategies
	LS1-k	Regulatory	For renewable energy, consider town tax credits for residential installations.*	Energy Committee	TBD	5	LS2
LS2 – Resilient Area Protection	LS2-a	Discussion	Review Wetlands Overlay District. Consider the following questions – Are all important wetlands protected? Are wetlands protected with little ecosystem service value? Should a broader water quality buffer be considered, up to 100 feet?	LSPA, PB, ZBA	LSWPG	1	LS1, LS3
	LS2-b	Assessment	Delineate Town Wetlands.		TBD	TBD	
	LS2-c	Assessment	Map vernal pools.		Volunteer	3	
	LS2-d	Assessment	Review existing maps and supplement with any needed inventory and mapping of Town natural settings recreation, including ownership, accessibility, and condition.	Recreation Committee, SRKG, LSRCC	Volunteer	1	MS2
	LS2-e	Education	Increase awareness of and programming for natural settings recreation (e.g., maps available at Town facilities and Recreation website, advance youth programs in Town Forests).	Recreation Dept, LSRCC, SRKG	TBD	3	MS2
	LS2-f	Regulatory	Designate “prime wetlands” and allow special review by the State Wetlands Bureau*	PB	NA	5	
	LS2-g	Management	In Town Forests, enact adaptive management strategies and provide simultaneous educational opportunities with property owners, especially regarding water quality and habitat.			Ongoing	LS3, MS1
LS3 – Water Quality Protection	LS3-a	Partnership	Keep informed and support LSPA efforts to implement the 2020 Lake Sunapee Watershed Management Plan	LSPA	NA	Ongoing	
	LS3-b	Discussion	Consult with Highway Department yearly on water quality issues and improvements, such as efforts to reduce the use of salt on Town roads and storm drainage improvements.	Highway Dept	NA	Ongoing	LS2
	LS3-c	Discussion	Review Shoreline Overlay District. Consider the following questions – Should a broader water quality buffer be considered, up to 100 feet?	LSPA, Water & Sewer Dept	LSWPG	1	LS1, LS2
	LS3-d	Discussion	Discuss opportunities to improve groundwater protection through inspection of private septic systems for failure. Performed either through a Health Ordinance and/or expansion of the LSPA Watershed Wise program*	LSPA, PB	LSWPG	TBD	LS2

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	LS3-e	Assessment	Assess current stormwater management regulations.	<u>Highway Dept</u>	LSWPG, CWSRF	TBD	LS2
	LS3-f	Assessment	Evaluate needs for green infrastructure improvements and identify funding mechanisms to further priority projects.	<u>Highway Dept, UVLSRPC</u>	LSWPG, CWSRF	2	LS2, MS1
	LS3-g	Education	Educate the public on PFAS impact on wastewater management to encourage reductions in contamination.	<u>Water & Sewer Dept, LSPA, LSRCC</u>	LSWPG	TBD	LS1
	LS3-h	Education	Educate the public on protecting drinking water. Support and consider expanding the LSPA Watershed Wise program to be Town-wide. Consult Town Forest Management Plan.	<u>LSPA</u>	LSWPG	3	LS2
	LS3-i	Regulatory	Expand the Aquifer Overlay District to include wellhead protection areas, including future municipal wells at Wendell Marsh.	<u>Water & Sewer Dept, PB</u>	LSWPG	1	
	LS3-j	Regulatory	Reclassify areas around drinking water wells according to the state Groundwater Protection Act*	<u>Water & Sewer Dept, PB</u>	LSWPG	3	LS1
LS4 – Invasives Mgmt	LS4-a	Assessment	Inventory and map locations with known invasive species.	<u>Highway Dept, LSPA</u>	Volunteer Driven	1	MS2
	LS4-b	Education	Educate the public on identification of invasive species and known mechanisms in their spread. Support and consider expanding the LSPA Invasive Monitor program to be Town-wide and include terrestrial invasives.	<u>LSPA</u>	TBD	TBD	MS1
	LS4-c	Management	Create an Invasives Management plan. Prioritize invasives management at Scenic Viewing sites. Incorporate native species plantings when appropriate.		TBD	TBD	MS2
	General	Discussion	Regular review and discussion of Conservation plan.	SCC	NA	March, September	

Table 1. 2022 Conservation Plan Action List for the Sunapee Conservation Commission.

*Note: Those actions previously mentioned in SCC planning documents are indicated with a *.*

Shorthand Partner Note: PB = Planning Board, ZBA = Zoning Board of Adjustment, LSPA = Lake Sunapee Protective Association; LSRCC = Lake Sunapee Regional Chamber of Commerce; SRKG = Sunapee Ragged Kearsarge Greenway. Shorthand Funding Note: NA = fits within baseline function of SCC; CWSRF = NHDES Clean Water State Revolving Fund; LSWPG = NHDES Local Source Water Protection Grant Program; InvestNH = NH Housing InvestNH Grant Program