

SUNAPEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 1, 2023 Meeting Notes

Present: Van Webb, chairman, Tim Fleury, vice chairman, Ginny Gwynn, treasurer, Barbara Chalmers, Matt Hurd. By ZOOM Sylvia Kellner

Absent: Cliff Fields

Guests: Doug Hanson

Van called the meeting at Town Hall to order at 7:05.

1. MINUTES

- **Motion** by Van to approve February minutes, 2nd by Tim. Matt abstained. Vote unanimous in favor.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Report: Ginny reported that the 2023 Con Com financial report is not yet showing funding for this year. Last year's current use change tax has not yet been transferred to our account. Ginny understands that the UVLSRPC bills for the NRI have been paid, but do not show in the last available bank statement. **Motion** by Tim to accept the treasurer's report, 2nd by Barbara, Vote unanimous in favor.
Pending: Current Use Change Tax quarterly reports from the town office to Ginny.

3. INVOICES

- NH Assoc of Conservation Commission 2023 membership invoice: **Motion** by Ginny to pay this \$425 invoice from membership account, 2nd by Barbara. Vote unanimous in favor.
- Pennyroyal GPS survey of Barrett-Archers lot wetland flagged line for sewerage treatment plant invoice of \$625. **Motion** by Tim to pay this invoice from ConCom fund, 2nd by Ginny. Vote unanimous in favor. Tim noted there is a map of this survey and we need to get a copy.
- Pennyroyal Survey invoice for town's 75% share View easement is \$862. **Motion** by Ginny to pay this invoice from Con Com fund, 2nd by Tim. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

4. MAIL

- Lake Sunapee Yacht Club DES permit application for repairs to breakwater.
- Carl Merritt, Steamboat Landing, Georges Mills: DES permit application for dock repair.
- Campbell Family Trust, DES application to replace 4 by 69-ft footbridge between the Twin Islands (no impact in lake)
- Meadow Brook Homeowners Association, DES dredge permit at Red Water Creek at their boat docks.
- 28 Birch Point Lane DES permit to redo a stair and retaining wall of 260 sq ft area.

5. VISITORS

Doug Hanson has submitted a volunteer application to the town and is interested in the member position on the Conservation Commission. He recently resigned from the Energy Committee, was a hiking trail steward, and has the time and interest in conservation to serve on the committee. Van welcomed Doug's participation.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- New Members: **Motion** by Tim to recommend to the selectmen the appointment of Doug Hanson to the Conservation Commission, 2nd by Matt. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- Conservation Commission Warrant Articles: Van reported that town forest - sewer plant site warrant article was amended by Dave Bailey to reflect the acreage determined by survey. The commission budget is in the overall town government proposed budget. Warrant article for the forest fund is as agreed to with the selectmen.

- View Easement at Ryder Corner Road: Tim reported that the proposed view easement language currently only includes a boundary description with no other requirements such as liability for cutting trees on town land, use of the cut timber, notification of cutting, and other issues. View easements are not part of settled law yet and the two examples he has seen from Ausbon Sargent are each quite different. After a discussion, all felt that any cutting on town land needs to be done by those with liability and workers comp insurance, in compliance with good forestry practices, in observance of slash law boundaries, and with prior notification to the town of cutting. Tim will discuss this with the town manager, who will seek guidance from the town attorney. Then Tim will contact Josh Ginsburg regarding easement deed language. **Action by Tim**
- Peer Review Meeting: Barbara attended the February meeting that included proposed development projects: Upper Blueberry Hill subdivision now proceeding to road bond meeting. Goodnow Boat Co. parcel in Georges Mills on Rte 11 across from the gas station to begin review process. Barbara provided information regarding the significant historical status of the present structure and Otter Brook stream classification. Van asked if Barbara would check on status of Blueberry Hill alteration of terrain permit and confirm voluntary aspect of land set-aside provision for major subdivisions. Barbara will continue to attend peer review meetings on an interim basis. **Action by Barbara**
- Planning Board NRI Cost Share: Barbara reported that left-over 2022 Planning Board for master plan update were not carried forward. Shannon will review the 2023 budget and get back to Barbara. Michael Marquis is in support of cost sharing. **Action by Shannon Martinez**
- Update on Treehouse & QR Code for Rec Use Data from Cliff: No update. **Action by Cliff**
- Dewey Woods / Garnet Hill Park: Forest assessment walk at Dewey Woods and Garnet Hill Park with our forestry consultant, MeadowsEnd has been rescheduled for March 22 at 1 PM. Meet at Dewey Field parking lot.
- NRI: Barbara reported that the questions and errors in the NRI conservation land map have been sorted out with Olivia and she is editing the map. When Barbara gets the new file, it will be uploaded to the website and new copies made for the 3 bound printed reports. **Action by Barbara**
Barbara reported that articles about the new NRI have appeared during the past month in the Intertown Record Sunapee column, LSPA e-mail newsletter, and Project Sunapee email blast. An information handout was given to attendees of the Deliberative Session.
- Ledge Pond Trail Erosion: Pending: Field visit to view conditions to occur when snow is gone.
- Conservation Land Disks: Barbara reported the 250 metal discs have arrived and passed out samples. She bought stainless steel nails, but was informed that they need to be aluminum. Some disks have been installed, more will go up after snow melts. Credit card charge has not come thru yet.
- NH Conservation Commission Assoc sponsored wetland training: Session 2 was attended by Ginny, Sylvia, and Barbara. It was very informative regarding regulations.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Up-coming Ausbon Sargent conservation commission round-table discussion on April 27 will be attended by Ginny.
- 1992 Sunapee wetlands report: This report will be used by Michael Marquis and Scott Hazelton to better define the wetlands in the town ordinance. Michael would like a conservation commission member to be involved in this process. Unless another member is interested, Barbara will assist.
- Effort to de-regulate licensing for wetlands scientists, soils scientists, foresters, and others. This is a cost saving measure proposed by the governor's office as an attachment to the state budget bill. The Association of Conservation Commissions is strongly against this move, as commissions rely on the expertise and accuracy of these licensed professionals and has urged all conservation commissions to write a letter in objection to this cut. Motion by Van for Barbara to write and send a letter to the legislature in opposition to eliminating licensure for these professionals. 2nd by Ginny. Tim abstained as a government employee. Vote was unanimous in favor.

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 8:30 PM. Next Meeting: April 5 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chalmers, secretary