

Sunapee Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2021

Tim Fleury read the emergency order by the Governor.

Present roll call: Van Webb, Tim Fleury, Cliff Field, Mark Reynolds

Public: John Augustine

Van introduced and thanked John Augustine, Selectman with the Town of Sunapee, for coming to the meeting. John thanked the board for allowing his visit, and Happy New Year and explained that he wants to attend meetings of all Town entities to get acquainted with the people, projects and processes. Mr. Augustine hopes that by building communication between the Town's groups they will be able to work together, smarter, economically efficient, and stream line where possible.

Tim Fleury made the motion to accept the December 2020 Meeting Minutes as written. Mark Reynolds seconded the motion. All in Favor – TF yes, LE yes, MR yes, CF abstain absent from Dec meeting, VW y.

Treasurers Report – No Treasurers report provided to SCC since October 2020. Mark has not had success with any kind of feedback or reply from monthly requests from Lynne Wiggins. Mark has done rough numbers with the October Reports and reviewed minutes for funding votes to try to give an idea of where the SCC account balances stand, but has no confirmation from the town. Van asked John if he has any insight on how to get action. SCC needs to know balances and confirm bills are paid, budget balance and account balances as we plan projects with these resources. The SCC also needs accurate accounting for future planning and warrant requests. John recommended documenting and following the chain of command to try and resolve this communication issue. John also said he could add our inquiry to the next agenda of the Selectman's meeting. John said he would bring it up to the select board if the SCC requests were not resolved.

John described the Towns future with potential loss of our tax dollars and that Sunapee has reached the point where many boards, committees, groups and organizations are all competing for the same funds. John hopes by learning more about all the town entities and somehow getting all the entities to communicate we can work smarter and more efficiently with our resources. The goal is to gain knowledge on groups and all involved and find opportunities to work together. John also emphasized working on not relying on Tax dollars and seeking funding in other ways such as sponsorships and fundraising.

Van attended the Select Board in reference to the SCC warrant article being reduced by the received funds for 2020 from the Change in Use fee. Van reported that the Select board decide to uphold the warrant article request for \$55, 000 while also receiving the expected 2020 Change in Use fee. We have potential projects and need the funds to build up account balances to be able to even think about a purchase. The Nutting project cleaned out the SCC project fund. SCC will need to rebuild that account for the next potential project.

Lela had contact from Brad Weiss, inquiring if the SCC could review his project in White Shutters and make comment. Lela emailed the project plans with the NHDES Shore land approval and brought the Site Plan & Details – Proposed Conditions for the NHDES SWOPA & Town Zoning Permitting to the SCC meeting. Van states he does not believe Conservation committee comment is our role as the SCC or to be involved in this project. Our comment would be no comment either way good or bad on the project, that is not our realm. SCC appreciates the request from Mr. Weiss. The SCC reviewed the plan, noted that there is a permit in place, however it is not our job as the Conservation Commission to go to the Zoning Board with recommendation or comment.

Van spoke on the Trails and Liability issues. A committee of Van, Cliff and Aaron Simpson discussed how to get work parties out on the trails of Town properties. Van has not made any head way, hoping to have Cliff take over as chair and get the ball rolling. We paid some big money for cleanup and maintenance in the past. What can we do to get people in a volunteer capacity? Aaron will help with the legal aspect of getting the liability covered for volunteers. **Tim appointed Cliff Field as the new Chairman of the Trails and Liability Committee. Mark Reynolds seconded. All in favor, TF yes, LE yes, MR y, CF abstain, VW yes.**

Cliff invited John Augustine to be on the committee. John replied as an individual yes, but if John joins as a Select Board Member for input and communication, SCC would need to request a Select board member be on the committee and request John to be the rep appointed. After the vote in March new select board members attend their first meeting, which is when new assignments take place. SCC would request that they would like a board member on this committee. This leads right in to John's goals of crossing organizations, and committees to improve communication and work more efficiently. **Tim Fleury made the motion to approach the Selectman to approve a Selectman to our Trails and Liability committee. Cliff Field seconded. TF yes, LE yes, MR yes, CF y, VW y.**

Cliff will go to a future Selectman's Meeting to make a proposal and will get numbers for the amount we have spent on trail work. Cliff will plan to work with Aaron on a presentation for the Select Board. Aaron has written a book and guidelines for trail construction for the State.

SCC received ASPLT Wendall Marsh Monitoring concerns. The east side of the property that abuts the Samalis property has encroachments. Noted infractions on town property included a shooting range, no trespassing signs, ornaments for target practice, and an old tree house with beer cans accumulating. These can be a nuisance and it is in the best interest of the SCC to have this removed. The old tree house is noted on a town property map, and goes back to the Jennings. This will be a Selectman's issue if problems arise. ATVs have been encroaching so the SCC will post the property again. The property problems will become an enforcement issue. We need to be more aggressive as we have an obligation to protect this town land. Once SCC receives hard copy of the report from ASLPT we will review and come up with a plan.

Ledge Pond Timber Sale – Key to the gate dispensed, equipment is up there. The intent to cut will be signed on 1/12/21.

SCC reviewed a plan submitted by Eversource to do vegetation maintenance on a right of way in Sunapee. We reviewed the plan. **Tim Fleury made the motion on the Eversoursre proposal and sees no issues. Mark Reynolds seconded. TF y, LE y, MR y, CF y, VW y.**

Cliff inquired on the December meeting when the SCC was invited to comment on the Old Smith Property Project. SCC reviewed concerns and shared that we recommended not to grant the variance. John gave more info on raising funding for projects with suggestions of getting sponsorships for trail work, put more signage up for viewing and to highlight the work of the SCC. We could make maps and sell sponsorship space, build awareness of town properties with a "green up day", and organize a trail Cleanup day. Due to the pandemic, record numbers of people are out on public land and maybe we can put them to work. The Town Report could be a way to start sharing information and raise awareness. SCC members thanked John for his time and energy and attending our meeting and sharing his goals of connecting all the entities to work smarter and more efficiently all for the betterment of our town and resources.

Mail:

Standard Dredge & Fill Wetlands Permit for Hayes, 77 Lake Ave, Sunapee, 128/54, 3 improvements which will impact the shoreline of Lake Sunapee. SCC No action required

DES Approval for Simonetti 2019 Trust, 25 Birch Point Lane, Sunapee 136-45

Abutter Notification from Pellettieri Associates Inc regarding 77 Lake Ave, Sunapee 128/054

Letter from ASLPT acknowledging receipt of check for the Nutting Project.

Coffin Real Estate Trust notice of incomplete application for Wetlands Dredge and fill for 26 Garnet St, Sunapee 125/36 Robert Coffin