

Sunapee Conservation Commission meeting minutes for April 7, 2021

Present online: Van Webb, Mark Reynolds, Matt Hurd, Terry Mattson

Present Town office: Tim Fleury, Lela Emery

Absent: Cliff Field

Tim Fleury read the Governor's Emergency Order.

**Tim Fleury made the motion to approve the March Meeting minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Matt Hurd. TF Y, LE Y, TM Y, MH Y, MR Y, VW Y**

Matt Hurd has been sworn in as a Sunapee Conservation Commission Member

Charlene and Lucian Osborne stopped by to fill in the SCC that Lucian has received his Boy Scout Life rank and is now working to set up his Eagle Scout project and would like to do a project on Ledge Pond.

Lucian needs to lead, plan, get volunteers. A SCC member will need to guide. Tim suggested SCC could designate an area at Ledge Pond for Lucian to do his project. SCC will pick and come up with an overview of what we want and have Lucian come to a future meeting to discuss.

SCC is also working with Jeremy Turner from MTL on a trail system on Ledge Pond with a spring/summer timeline. Van invited the Osbornes to stay and listen to the Ledge Pond logging wrap up and the closing process with trail work incorporated.

Treasurer Report:

CCF \$29,318.34

Town Forest Fund \$21,198.71 (Ledge Pond timber harvest \$)

Operating Budget balance \$2,825.00

Van inquired on the report a deposit of \$67,162.00 on February 4, 2021. Asked Mark for a break out of the funds for next meeting. We think change in use and 2020 Warrant article?

**Matt Hurd made the motion to accept the Treasurers Report. Motion seconded by Tim Fleury. TF Y, LE Y, TM Y, MH Y, MR Y, VW Y**

Jeremy Turner with MTL (Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd.) joined the SCC meeting to give wrap up of the Ledge Pond project. Jeremy stated he was very pleased with how things went. Great walk with SCC members. Logger (Butcher) was a great fit and went above and beyond his expectations in implementing work around the trials and resources (streams and wetlands). The wood work harvest is complete. Still needs to dry, hopefully in early May it will be in good shape and we can plan to have the operator come back and finish up the landing, grade, appearance, water controls, clean up debris and water flow crossing, which is all done under contractual agreement. During the close up work is the opportunity for the SCC to also incorporate trail work with the logger. When doing the cleanup work, some trail work can be done at the same time. Jeremy said the operator was interested and on board with helping. SCC will have an on sight walk before the work is scheduled, to get an idea of what we would like done. Jeremy will flag some trail options for our review. He will also provide some numbers as to what our extra payment would be for the extra work v the obligated clean up. Jeremy will set up a date with the logger and hopefully give SCC members notice to attend.

Van asked for some budget numbers for the May 2021 meeting. Jeremy also said that SCC should be expecting the last check for the harvest of \$1,400-\$1,600. Van asked Jeremy about the Wood Cut Filing, Jeremy said that Cersosimo (Saw Mill) does the filing. Van wants to make sure a copy and a note goes to Donna Nashawaty that there is no timber tax due.

Van asked Jeremy what is coming up on the SCC Forestry Services Contract with MTL for the year. First item is keeping the banking of Dewey Woods clear - not to exceed \$1,200? These services are paid out of our Professional Services from our budget. Jeremy said his crews would be out on the trails with a

saw and leaf blowers, which will allow for a visual of any problem areas that may need more attention and more money to address. Van asked that those are brought to our attention so we don't run out of funds without addressing any problems. Annual trail clean up as a not to exceed of \$1,500?

Terry reported that she updated the NHACC membership with all the SCC members emails. SCC members will receive an email that they have been updated with the NHACC.

Terry Mattson reported now that we have had the update from Jeremy with MTL she has the latest information on the Ledge Pond project to complete her Georges Mills Newsletter. Once completed, Terry will forward to MTL and SCC members for review and input.

SCC received a copy of a letter from State of NH, Intra Department communication from Steve Doyon P.E. Dam Safety & Inspection Section, regarding the Memo of Deficiency, reclassification of Wendall Marsh Dam #D229015 Sunapee - modifying from Low to Significant Hazard Potential. This memo is to James W. Gallagher, PE Chief Water Resources Engineer Dam Bureau. SCC does not believe this has anything to do with the Sunapee Conservation Commission as the dam was constructed and is maintained by Fish and Game and would not be under our purview. Van and Donna feel that there is no responsibility for the town nor any liability to the town even though they have reclassified the dam. Donna will follow up with the notice.

Van, Mark and Terry met with Chief Cahill at Treatment Plant Road regarding the proposed shooting Range site for all weapons to be located on the Sewage Plant Lot. The range is not on SCC property. This also needs to be brought before the Select Board. A map was shared and SCC members expressed a concern with the location of the hiking trails and the snow mobile trails in the area that do wind in and around the Treatment Plant. It is also a change in use of the land. Chief Cahill explained there would be a system in place with signs and flags when shooting is taking place to keep it safe. This would be for the TOS Police Department however, they would invite other town police departments over for practice, training and keeping up with certifications. No State Police would be using the facility. Individual officers could also use the range. Long term there are plans for a building, a bunker for sand and lead retrieval. This will be in the works and hopes of something in 2022. There will be a site plan review. SCC was notified as a courtesy for the planning process. Chief Cahill also shared that approximately 30,000 rounds of ammunition will be used in a year. SCC would like to stay involved and informed in the process and provide input with concerns. It was shared that the Energy Committee was looking to put Solar panels at the location. Van will do work on a way to track the usage and create a system for getting feedback from the users of the Wendall Marsh Trails to confirm best location for the range. Chief Cahill will be notified of our intent to collect input. SCC should attend Site Plan Review at the Select Board meeting.

Town Forest Funds v. Deed with regards to funds and spending. SCC is required to pass a warrant article to spend funds from the Town Forest Fund. This account presently holds the logging income just received from the project done on Ledge Pond. SCC members have also reviewed deeds for other parcels in Town which have identical language, stating that any income raised from the parcel shall be placed in an account for the parcel. So the income from these Town Forest/Deeded parcels needs to be sorted out with which documentation takes precedence over the other. Van will form a question on this and forward to Donna to hopefully forward to Town Counsel for clarity of precedents and then for SCC spending guidelines.

Tim informed the SCC members that the Emerald Ash borer is present in Sunapee. The Sunapee area has many ash trees and it is believed that they may all die within the next 3-7 years. Dead trees create hazards. Several Town parcels have lots of Ash. A decision will need to be made to cut trees and harvest

the wood before it is dead. This can be done on the parcels even with deed restriction as it is for the health of the forest. Or wait and then clean up the mess.

An Email was shared for SCC review from John Augustine regarding "Walk Your Woods Day". SCC likes and is onboard with the idea. If Pandemic guidelines allow, SCC would pick a Saturday in September, highlight a parcel, and lead a hike. See how it goes then maybe expand. Van will get in touch with John and asked for volunteers from the SCC to form a committee. Matt Hurd and Mark Reynolds volunteered. Van will send an email to John and include Mark and Matt to get the ball rolling.

Tim shared that he saw the Planning Board is starting to work on a Master Plan which is done by the Town every 10-15 years. SCC should have input and review all topics pertaining to Conservation and provide updated reports. One item discussed Natural Resources update should be submitted. At this stage the Planning Board is working on the questionnaire that goes out for public input. This is all still in the preliminary planning.

Mail:

ASLPT thank you note for Membership renewal

Shore land Permit by Notification for the Town of Sunapee, Main St & Garnet St intersection drain work, road reconfiguration.

Brochure from NH Timberland Owners Association "Caring for your Forest"

NH DES newsletter

DES Approval Aubuchon Realty Co. Inc, NH RT 103 & RT 11 Sunapee Tax map 225/8 Sugar River

DES Approval Standard Fill Wetland Permit Coffin Real Estate Trust, 26 Garnet Hill Rd, Sunapee 125/36

DES Denied application for Michael Wick, untimely response to notice of incomplete application #2020-01075, 73 Lake Ave, Sunapee

Forest Notes Magazine

DES Statutory Permit Notification for Culvert replacement on River Road by the Town of Sunapee for Culvert Repair and replacement town right of way.