

**TOWN OF SUNAPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
August 4, 2021 7:00 PM**

**Attendance: Van Webb, Lela Emery, Terry Matteson, Matt Hurd,
Mark Reynolds, Cliff Field**

Meeting Commenced at 7:07 pm

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Terry moved to approve minutes from June meeting. Matt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark highlighted that the balance available in the Conservation Commission Fund is \$91,629.07. This balance reflects the \$55,000 from the 2021 Town Warrant article. It also reflects \$7,279.81 from the Land Use Change taxes. There were no changes to the fund balances in the other accounts.

Van asked if there are funds available to pay for invoices from the General Fund line items. Mark highlighted that there is \$2,300 available General Fund line item. There are outstanding invoice \$412.50 from Meadowsend Timberland voted on at last month meeting but still needs to be paid. There is also an invoice for \$917.05 for Cersosimo Lumber Company for "close out" of the timber harvest at Ledge Pond. There is enough funding to pay for both of these invoices. There is an outstanding invoice from SPNHF for \$250 for memberships but a paper trail is needed.

Cliff made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report – seconded by Matt. Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

MAIL

Scott Hazelton has submitted a Standard Dredge and Fill Permit Application (wetland permit) the Police Boat dock as discussed at last month's meeting.

There is a Permit by Notification submitted by Scott Hazelton for the Town of Sunapee for repairing a retaining wall on the west side of the Georges Mills Boat Ramp. The project will be undertaken in late summer.

REVIEW AND APPROVE INVOICES

Matt made a motion to approve an invoice from Cersosimo Lumber Company, Inc for \$917.05 for crushed gravel and excavator work to close out the Ledge Pond Timber Harvest. Payment will be taken from the Professional Service line item. Motion was seconded by Terry. Motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/VISITORS

Anthony Clark – Owner of 27 Seven Hearths Lane regarding trees on Dewey Field boundary.

Mr Clark has requested permission from the Town to remove 4 or 5 trees along the Dewey Field boundary. He feels the trees pose a hazard to the powerlines and they block his view of the Lake. He is willing to pay for removal and cleanup.

Mr Clark built a log home at that location about 15 years ago. The lot was wooded but it was cleared to build the house and create a view of the lake. It abuts old Route 11. Mr Clark passed around a plot plan for the 2.4 acres and photos of his lake view. He noted that there are 4 to 6 trees on the Dewey Woods parcel that are beginning to block his view. He would like to pay to remove or trim the trees. He will be removing hazard trees on his side of the property lines. He is proposing to clean up old Route 11 to make it walkable and accessible to hikers and snowmobilers. There are utility lines along the right-of-ways as well.

Van highlighted that the Dewey Woods parcel has deed restrictions related to tree cutting. Trees can only be cut to improve forest health. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests is the back up on the deed so they need to be consulted. Terry asked if the Emerald Ash Borer is problem on Dewey Woods. Tim indicated that it will be problems with EAB moratality but they only attack Ash trees. The trees that Mr Clark wants to remove may not be Ash trees. Van also highlighted that the Conservation Commission does not want to set a precedent by allowing abutting owners to clear town forests for views. The town now 500 acres so it needs to be thoughtful about these

requests. Discussion ensued about the utility lines and having the utility company remove the trees.

The Conservation Commission members suggested that the utility company be contacted about the hazard trees. The Conservation Commission will be reviewing the health of the trees on Dewey Woods within 5 years and will look at the trees. Van recommended that Mr Clark stay in touch with the Commission as we move forward.

Request to connect to town's summer water by Bill Robbins of 165 Garnet Hill Road.

Mr Robbins contacted the Town Manager to seek permission to cross 600' of the Bartlett Tyler lot to connect with the summer water line. Cliff Fields is abstaining from voting.

The Robbins have lived in Sunapee since 1977. In recent years they have found that their well is not sufficient during the summer. The well level is down by 500' during the summer. The Robbins feel that the residential development around the lake has drawn down the aquifer that feeds their well. They would like to install ¾" flexible pipe across town land to connect to the summer water line that currently exists. The alternative to crossing the town land is to cross three neighboring lots. Two of neighbors have agreed but a third has not. They have been talking to well drillers but they are facing a backlog of work. Mark asked if the neighbors have problems with their wells. The Robbins indicated that they have one neighbor has summer water but they are not sure about the other neighbors. The Robbins stated that they Town installed town sewer along Garnet Hill Road but said the Town declined to install town water. The Robbins highlighted that their current water situation is not liveable.

There are currently summer water lines on the Tyler Bartlett lot on the west side along Jobs Creek Road. It is not clear if they lines are active. Discussion ensued about running the water lines along the right of way to the town road. It would be preferable running the water line up and over the hill.

Van indicated that the Commission is not ready to make a commitment to the project this evening. The Commission would like to hear from the Water and Sewer Department and the Town Highway department before making a decision. Terry highlighted that there should be better planning for the water

usage along Garnet Hill Road and that there will likely other residents having similar problems. She would like to hear from the Planning Board. Van told the Robbins that the Commission would like to hear about the long term plans for providing a water to Garnet Hill Road residents before moving forward. Cliff agreed to look at laying out a summer water line along the town road right of way to meet the short term needs of the Robbins.

Request to Discuss Ledge Pond Timber Harvest – Linda Tanner

Linda Tanner had to postpone her appearance till next month.

Van asked if there were any complaints about the timber harvest at Ledge Pond. Terry indicated that she has not heard any. There has been general increase in the trail use on Ledge Pond which is a goal for the Commission. Cliff highlighted the tremendous trail use throughout the region and the need to maintain any public trails which are being degraded by the intense use. Terry will work on an article for the Georges Mills newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Trail Work

Volunteers working on trails

Cliff has not made any progress and Aaron Simpson is out of town. So nothing to report this month.

Ledge Pond Eagle Scout Update

Mark met with Luccine and the Meadowsends Timberlands Forester, Matthais, to flag out the trail. The trail system has been laid out for improvement.

“Walk Your Woods” – Team Update

Mark walked many of the recreational trails in town and highlighted that some of the trail are underutilized. He felt the Greenway trails below Dexter’s Inn would be good trail system to hike for Walk Your Woods day this fall. The parking would be at Dexter’s Inn. Cliff indicated that some of the trails are located on the Simpson’s property. Cliff Field will contact Aaron Simpson about permission. The date of the Walk in Your Woods would be Sunday, October 3rd at 1 pm follow by event at Dexter’s Inn at 3 pm. The advertisement will be in the Intertown Record, the Town of Sunapee website, Social Media, and through Dexter’s Inn.

Mark suggested next year we highlight the Wendell Marsh trail system.

Wendell Marsh View Easement

The meeting at the Ginsburg's view easement did not happen. It was postponed till next month. Tim will meet with Ginsburgs and Clayton Platt (surveyor) to delineate the view area to permanently identify it on the ground and record it in the Town's deed. Van will substitute for Tim if he is unavailable.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorials on Town Forest Land

Rhonda Tracey has requested a memorial for her late husband be placed on town land. Van highlighted that we have decided these requested on a case by case basis. Lela stated that we need to develop a policy for dealing with this request. For instance, will the conservation easement permit the placement of a memorial? The Commission agreed that a policy needs to be set. In terms of the Tracey request the Commission needs and is requesting more information.

Camping on Town Forestland

The Commission decided not to allow camping on town forestland. The policy will be noted in the Town Forest brochure and posted in the Kiosks by Lela.

Policies and Procedures Discussion

Discussion on policies and procedures was postponed to another meeting due to the length of tonight's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm

Respectively submitted

Tim Fleury