

**TOWN OF SUNAPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
September 1st, 2021 7:00 PM**

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

Absent: Matt Hurd

Meeting Commenced at 7:05 pm

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Cliff moved to approve minutes from August meeting. Terry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP

Van thanked Lela for her 20 years of service on the Conservation Commission! Lela is stepping down from the Committee after the meeting. We thank Lela for her many years of helping to conserve Sunapee's natural resources. She had been an integral part of the Commission for two decades. Lela kept us organized and made sure all the thankless tasks got done! Even though she is leaving the Commission we know she will be supporting our efforts as interested citizen. Thank you for the 20 years of service and best of luck, Lela!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark highlighted that the balance available in the Conservation Commission Fund is \$91,630.35. This balance reflects the \$55,000 from the 2021 Town Warrant article. It also reflects \$7,279.81 from the Land Use Change taxes. The balance of the Town Forest Fund stands at \$22,885.22. 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. There is an outstanding invoice from SPNHF for \$250.00 for memberships and an invoice from Meadowsend Timberlands for \$206.25 for trail work at Ledge Pond. Mark highlighted that there is \$145.45 available in General Fund line item so there is not enough funding to pay for both of these

invoices. It was decided that the remaining balance (\$145.45) of the General Fund line item be expended and that the Conservation Commission Fund would be used to pay the balance of the invoices.

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

REVIEW AND APPROVE INVOICES

Cliff made a motion to approve an invoice for \$250.00 from Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests (SPNHF) for membership. Payment for \$145.45 will be made from the General Fund. The remaining balance, \$104.55, will be paid from the Conservation Commission Fund. Motion was seconded by Terry. Motion was approved unanimously.

Terry made a motion to pay an invoice for \$206.25 from Meadowsend Timberlands for assisting the Eagle Scout trail project at Ledge Pond. The invoice will be paid from the Conservation Commission Fund. Cliff seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

2022 BUDGET REQUEST

Van reviewed the 2021 General Fund budget. He indicated that the Conservation Commission seems to be spending more funds on operating expenses than we have in the past. We overspent the General Fund budget by \$310.89 this year which came from the Conservation Commission Fund. Lela proposed that the General Fund line item be increased to \$4,500 which is an increase of \$775. Van proposed we raise the Professional Services line item to \$3,200, the Membership line item would be \$1,125, and the Supplies line item would be \$100. He also proposed folding the Training line item for \$75 into the Professional Service line item. The total 2022 budget request for the Conservation Commission's General Fund line item would equal \$4,500.

Lela made a motion to increase the 2022 Conservation Commission General Fund budget request to \$4,500. Terry Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2022 WARRANT ARTICLE REQUESTS

Van brought up the annual Warrant Article request for \$55,000 for Conservation Commission Fund. Discussion ensued about whether to keep the 2022 request at \$55,000 or reduce the amount requested by the

equivalent amount of the Land Use Change Tax. The Commission was unanimous in keeping the request at \$55,000

Lela made motion to make a Capital Reserve request for \$55,000 to be placed as a Warrant Article on the 2022 Town Ballot. If approved the funds would be deposited in the Conservation Commission Funds. Cliff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Van reviewed a Forestry Services Agreement from Meadowsend Timberlands for proposed trail building on the Ledge Pond Town Forest which will be undertaken in two phases in 2022/2023. The price estimated for both phases of the project is \$5,700. Van reminded the Commission that a vote of Town Governing Body was needed to spend funds from Town Forest Fund so we would need to place a Warrant Article on the Town Ballot next spring to get the approval to authorize the expenditure of these funds.

Lela made a motion to place a Warrant Article on the 2022 Town Ballot to expend \$5,700 from the Town Forest Fund for trail work at the Ledge Pond Town Forest. Work to be completed by Meadowsend Timberlands. Terry seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MAIL

A Standard Dredge and Fill application was filed on behalf of Pine Ledge Two Realty Trust, S. Klove & P. Folkins, Trustees by Right Angle Engineering, PLLC to reconstruct a portion of a retaining wall that provides access to properties at both 126 and 128 Garnet Street (Tax Map 125, Lot 33).

A Report of Alleged Violation from NHDES was received for vegetation removed along Otter Pond Brook on the property of Michael Fowler (1282 Route 11, Tax Map 104, Lot 84). The owner has 20 days to respond to the allegations.

NHDES has received the Standard Dredge and Fill application filed by the Town of Sunapee for 1 Lake Ave (police boat dock) and it is administratively complete.

NHDES has approved the application for a Wetlands and Non-Site Specific Permit for 217 Burkehaven Hill Road (Tax Map 136, Lot 75) owned by Matthews Nominee Trust.

Shoreline Impact Permits were approved by NHDES for Ridgewood Point LLC (18 Ridgewood Point Rd, Tax Map 113, Lot 29), Compass Point LLC (68 Burkehaven Lane, Tax Map 140, Lot 22) and Nilsen Land Trust (31 Nilsen Lane, Tax Map 120, Lot 27).

PRESENTATIONS/VISITORS

Lucien Osborne – Eagle Scout Project at Ledge Pond Town Forest.

Lucien brought the Agreement for his Eagle Scout Project for signature by Chairman Webb. Van signed the agreement. Lucien highlighted that Matthias, Meadowsend Timbeland Forester, walked the trail systems and helped him make decisions about what needs to be done. Lucien hopes to start the project this fall and will keep the Commission up to date with regular communications.

OLD BUSINESS

Trail Work

Volunteers working on trails

Cliff highlighted that there is an on-going discussion about getting volunteers to do trail work. The use of large tools and chain saws is still a problem but lighter equipment seems to be acceptable. The Trails Committee will continue work on the policies.

“Walk Your Woods” – Team Update

Mark highlighted that Walk Your Woods day will be held on Sunday, October 3rd at 1 pm on the trail system adjoining Dexter’s Inn. The hike will be a moderate 1.25 mile hike that should last less than a couple of hours. Dexter’s Inn will have hot chocolate, cider and a fire ready for participants who complete the hike. Interested parties should meet at the parking lot of Dexter’s Inn. Mark and Matt will be the trip leaders.

Mark prepared an announcement for the event. The advertisement will be in the Intertown Record, the Town of Sunapee website, the Recreation Department Facebook page, and through Dexter’s Inn. The event will be held

Rain or Shine. Participants should wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear for the weather conditions. The Commission thanks Mark for organizing the event!

Wendell Marsh View Easement

Tim indicated that the meeting at the Ginsburg's view easement still has not happen. The Ginsburgs, Clayton Platt (surveyor), and Tim have been unable to coordinate schedule to arrange a meeting on site. Hopefully it will happen this month.

Ledge Pond Canoe

Van brought up the need to remove the canoe from Ledge Pond Town Forest. The Commission has received a recent request to store kayaks along the shore of the pond. It was decided that the canoe needs to be removed as it appears to be setting a precedent. Cliff had previously place on a note on the canoe but receive no response. It was decided to place another note on the canoe to have it removed. Terry will do so.

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

Cliff indicated that there is been no movement on the Robbins request to connect to the town's summer water. He will update the Commission as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectively submitted

Tim Fleury