

Present: Tim Fleury, Cliff Fields, Matt Hurd, Barbara Chalmers.

By Zoom: Van Webb, Mark Reynolds

Absent: Terry Mattson, Ginny Gwynn

Guests: By Zoom; Olivia Uyizeye of UVLSRPC, Geoff Lizotte of LSPA

Tim called the meeting at Town Hall to order at 7:00.

1. MINUTES

Motion by Cliff to approve Nov minutes, 2nd Tim, Matt abstained. Unanimous vote to approve.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Town Forest Fund: interest earned, fund at \$17,255.58

Dewey Woods Fund: interest earned, fund at \$1,618.18

Bartlett-Tyler Fund: interest earned, fund at \$28, 669.76

Con Com balance at \$130, 794.66 with payment of UVLSRPC invoices for NRI.

General Fund at \$2,190.75, to be reduced by payment of SPNHF and Ausbon-Sargent invoices, and if Pennyroyal Surveying gets their view easement invoice in, to leave \$578.

Motion by Barbara to accept Treasurer's report, 2nd by Cliff. Vote unanimously accepted.

3. INVOICES

- Ausbon-Sargent & SPNHF membership invoices have been paid.
- Olivia confirmed all outstanding UVLSRPC invoices have been paid.
- Pending; NH Assoc of Conservation Commissions membership invoice of \$425 for 2023 membership tabled in Oct for payment in April 2023.
- Pending; Pennyroyal revised invoice for view easement not received yet. Tim to contact Clayton Platt so payment can be made in 2022 calendar year. **Action by Tim**
- Meadowsend 2022 LCHIP monitoring & report invoice of \$543.75. Reports noted presents of invasive plants and new manure pit at Webb Farm.
Motion by Van to pay Meadowsend from Professional Services, 2nd by Cliff. Vote unanimously in favor.
- As acting chairman, Tim Fleury signed the UVLSRPC contract revision for NRI work approved at November meeting. Barbara will send a copy to Olivia. **Action by Barbara**

4. MAIL

- Birch Lane on Birch Point, a DES Dredge & Fill application for an existing wall replacement.
- TTC Properties 22 Woodland Road: Application, more info requested by DES.
- Pending: ConCom response to DOT Sep letter re mitigation priorities related to future Springfield Road culvert work at Otter Pond outlet pending. Tim will draft a response. **Action by Tim**

5. VISITORS

Geoff Lizotte of LSPA and Olivia Uyizeye of UVLSRPC attended meeting via Zoom regarding final draft of the NRI report and the proposed Conservation Plan, an action plan for the next ten years. Olivia explained that the proposed plan's goals come from our priorities exercise in October, 2009 NRI goals, conversations, and research for the NRI report.

Priority zones are 1) Water Quality, dispersed throughout town 2) Southwest Sunapee, with its connection to major conservation lands to our south; 3) Northwest Sunapee, highly rated in the co-occurrence map.

Four major priorities are 1) Input regarding land development to Planning and Zoning; 2) protection of resilient areas; 3) water quality protection (drinking water and water in general); 4) invasives management.

Minor priorities are: 1) farmland protection/ 2) natural settings protection.

Proposed action partners with the Con Com are underlined if an established relationship exists. Funding is noted "NA" if considered part of regular Con Com work.

Some goals are prime for volunteer public engagement, such as the mapping of vernal pools. Geoff noted that for some projects grants are available and cited the Ameri-Corps based at Squam Lake for physical volunteers. The LSPA is cited as a Con Com partner for educating the public and Geoff noted that the LSPA is happy to do so. An area of common concern and work could be the buffer zone at streams for water quality.

Tim commented that the Conservation Plan is a good list. Barbara noted that the list is ambitious, but she supports it. Cliff concurred as did Van. Tim noted that going forward the Conservation Plan needs to be reviewed on a regular basis.

Formats for information distribution were discussed. The NRI report will be put on-line in its entirety and in sections. Print copies will be made for Town Hall, Abbott Library and LSPA. Olivia will generate a story map for use in public presentations and on-line distribution, similar to the product she provided to Charlestown. A draft of the story map will be sent for review prior to finalizing in January.

Everyone thanked Olivia for a great job and well written report.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- View Easement at Ryder Corner Road: Tim reported that the written legal description of the view easement is yet to be done.
- Archers/Barrett Lot Wetland Survey: Tim reported no word yet from Clayton Platt regarding proposal to delineate wetlands at Archers/Barrett lot. (Needed to establish portion of lot to be removed from town forest designation by warrant article vote for use by sewer plant.) Van questioned why sorting this out is all on the Con Com with no assistance from Water/Sewer Department and warned against a hastily prepared warrant article. Tim concurred. Barbara will ask town manager about status of the warrant article. **Action by Barbara**
- Peer Review Meeting: Mark reported on further discussion re Blueberry Mountain development and urged that con com be involved in establishing details of any public land set-aside required by sub-division regulations, regardless of actual compliance and enforcement. A list of violations of town regulations for the Blueberry Mtn. development over the past 3-4 years would be of interest to the commission.
- 2022 Town Forest Rec Use Data Collection: Pending: Cliff reported no further action to set up QR code at this time. **Action by Cliff**
- Planning Board NRI Cost Share: Pending: Further contact pending final NRI invoice for discussion of a 50-50 cost share with the Planning Board.
- Treehouse on Wendell Marsh land: Craig Heino will do, might be done already.
- Hiking Trail Fallen Tree Removal: Cliff will contact Shannon about this. **Action by Cliff**
- Con Com E-mail Address: 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 through, the address. Access is through outlook.com

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Resignation: Terry Mattson has submitted her resignation. Van will write a note of thanks for her work on the board.
- Nominations:
 - **Motion**: Van moved to nominate Ginny Gwynn to fill Terry's open seat on the board, 2nd by Matt. Vote: Unanimous
 - **Motion**: Tim moved to nominate Mark Reynold to another term on the board retroactive to last April, 2nd by Cliff. Vote unanimous in favor.
These nominations go to the selectmen for appointment, then new members get sworn in by town clerk. There will be an open place for alternate member.
- Proposed 2023 Con Com Budget: **Motion**: Van moved to level fund from 2022, 2nd by Cliff. Tim **amended** the motion noting that the published draft budget increases professional/technical services by \$800. This area was over-spent in 2022. The draft budget is \$5,300. Amendment was 2nd by Matt. Vote on the amended motion of a \$5,500 budget was unanimous in favor.
- 2023 Warrant Article Funding the Conservation Expendable Trust Fund Van supports proposing \$55,000 as in years prior to 2022. **Motion** by Cliff to set warrant article for conservation trust fund at \$55,000, 2nd by Matt. Vote unanimous in favor.
- Dewey Woods: Tim reported that Steve Bourque, Rec Director and Craig Heino, town facilities, are interested in enlarging the outfield at the Dewey Woods ballfield, increasing parking, and moving the former elementary school portable classrooms on site for a Rec Dept activities center. Building location is proposed for north of the ballfield and requires removal of trees. They have been made aware of the deed restrictions and conservation interest held by the Society for Protection of NH Forests.
Barbara researched Dewey Woods history for deed restrictions, and past use proposals. Town counsel, SPNHF, and Dewey family members have been consulted in the past with each land use proposal. Those placing buildings on the land have not been viewed favorably.

Barbara noted that the historic Dewey Woods meadow on the east side of Route 11 has not been mowed in many years and needs attention. It is an important open wildlife habitat that will be lost to growth of young trees. Van suggested a January afternoon walk of the property with Meadowsend to view the work needed at the meadow and woodlot, to develop a work proposal, and then to take action in the spring. All agreed this was a good idea. Van will contact Meadowsend and put out a January date for an on-site walk. **Action by Van**
- 2022 Town Report: Van will write a 2022 summary of Con Com activities for the town report.
Action by Van

Meeting adjourned 9:15 PM. Next Meeting: January 4 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chalmers, secretary