

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David McTigue, Karen Miller, Kleta Dudley, Susan Mallett

7:30 - The Meeting was called to order.

Reviewed meeting minutes from February's meeting. Bob made a MOTION to accept minutes with changes discussed, Karen SECONDED, all were in favor.

7:40 - Bob asked everyone how they felt about restricting easement access. The pros and cons of restricting access were discussed. It was noted that the fewer restrictions the lower the taxes, limiting access can be helpful in protecting plants and animals. It was felt the owner has the right to limit the use and access to the property. Bob will call the state to confirm the laws.

7:55 - The next topic was regarding people who want to put property in easement. Bob asked how wide the easement should be. Conservation Commission would want a third party to hold the easement. The Friends of Wapack would like to ensure every part of the trail is protected.

8:05 - Bob noted the Board of Assessors voted to request \$100k from ARPA for map updates. Waiting to see if the Board of Selectmen approve it.

8:10 – Discussed a property on Ashburnham Road. A resident reached out to Bob anonymously because he suspected new owners were digging in the river. Rick Donovan checked with the owners and they said they were cleaning up trash prior owners left such as propane tanks and such.

Also on Ashburnham Road, Bob was approached about another property to see if the Conservation Commission had any interest in purchasing to preserve it because it is on the water. Apparently the owner is getting a hard time from the state to put a driveway in.

8:30 – Bob noted there is a wetland on Perry Road at the top of the hill that he believes is about 40 acres more or less. He will look into it, to see what value it may have and what type of wetland it is. If worthy then next step would be to get a wetland scientist to check the area out. Bob noted perhaps the LCHIP can help out as well.

Note added after meeting: The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) is an independent state authority that makes matching grants to NH communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. LCHIP works in partnership with New Hampshire municipalities and non-profits to acquire land and cultural resources, or interests therein, with local, regional and statewide significance. The legislatively mandated mission of the program is to ensure the perpetual contribution of these resources to the economy, environment and quality of life in New Hampshire.

8:40 – A Boy Scout leader reached out to Bob to see if there were any projects they might be able to help with. Some ideas were the bridge, putting up trail signs, cleaning up trails. Bob asked the Conservation Commission to think of other ideas.

At 8:45 pm A MOTION to adjourn was made by Karen Miller, and SECONDED by Kleta Dudley, All in attendance were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Mallett