

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
March 8, 2023

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman; David McTigue, Vice Chair; Kleta Dudley; Karen Miller,

ABSENT: Matt Olivera, Mike Bara

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES: We were unable to do this as our former secretary, Susan Mallett, has left the town's employment and has yet to provide them.

Presentation by Cory Ritz, SoRLAC- SoRLAC, Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee, is updating their watershed management plan and is seeking input from corridor towns on what they wish to see included in the plan. Besides reflecting the ideas of the towns, SoRLAC would like to see its watershed plan incorporated into each town's Master Plans. Ultimately, it is hoped that by doing so it will lead to more enforcement of "Best Practices" regarding development along the river's corridor and avoid direct runoff from impact storm events.

Bob offered to assist Cory with a presentation to the Planning Board. Our town's last Master Plan was in the making from 1991-2004 and is out of date. Rumor has it, there is a push to update it. The current plan is available on the town's website, but Bob pointed out that it is not well organized. He will be sending out a better organized version and would like members to review it.

The Souhegan River was designated as a protected river approximately 20 years ago. The Souhegan Watershed Association (SWA) had previously nominated the river for protection. SWA has been sponsoring water testing along the Souhegan for over 20 years, coordinating supplies and volunteers, and testing. It has recruited many of its water monitors from area town Conservation Commissions who also serve on the board of SoRLAC. This has understandably caused some confusion as to what each organization does. SoRLAC monitors and reviews development within ¼ mile of the river. We are provided with plans and permits that are received by DES and towns in the corridor. We comment on plans and more often than not, DES does follow through with the request we suggest. Each corridor town is allowed 3 members on the board. Any interested party is

welcome to attend our meetings held the 3rd Thursday of each month, usually at the police station in Milford, NH. New Ipswich could use another committee member.

Water Resources- The Mansfield property would be promising but Bob is uncertain if the owner would be willing to put his land into an easement. We have a considerable sum of money that we would like to invest in land conservation but finding the appropriate property is proving difficult.

Land Monitoring paper templates-Bob will be emailing members the new templates. They need to be reviewed for discussion at April's meeting.

Timber Harvest at the Transfer Station- Kenny Lehtonen wants to use the entrance to the dump to access property he has in the area. He plans to log the area. Bob has concerns that he may have a development planned for later. Discussion followed about the need of the town for gravel. Bob has written to the Selectmen concerning a timber harvest on the town property and has yet to receive a reply. The timber harvest will require an Alteration of Terrain (AOT) permit. Once the timber harvest is complete, the town will permit the abutter short term access across the newly cleared land to do a timber harvest on their property. The town will charge the abutter a fee for this privilege.

Bob noted that the current Master Plan suggests that the Conservation Commission should monitor a timber harvest. Some discussion followed on the lack of oversight required of Foresters for timber harvests.

Silver Scones Letter-The Planning Board sent the Conservation Commission a letter requesting "some insight regarding objections, questions, and comments from the public regarding the Silver Scones application that relate to the Conservancy lands/agreement that potentially impact the use of the property. The insights of the Conservation Commission will inform our dialog when we resume discussion on this application on 3/15"

The only question we felt we wanted to comment on was regarding snow storage. Bob checked with the Monadnock Conservancy and they did not have any objections to the plans as presented.

Other Business- Bob was reviewing payments that he was trying account for as there is some confusion with Susan Mallet's leaving. There was also discussion on whether we should continue to donate to NH Association of Conservation Commission. Karen presented compelling reasons for continuing our support, and as an example of why we should do this she mentioned an issue in the most current newsletter. In an article titled **NHACC supports state certification for Wetland Scientist:**

"NHACC has reviewed the Governor's Proposed Licensure and Regulatory Reform that would eliminate more than 30 professional licenses and certifications in NH, including Forester Soil Scientist and Certified Wetlands Scientist. We believe that requiring professional standards for these occupations is essential to protecting NH consumers and our most critical natural areas. Repealing the standards for professional scientists would be detrimental to land use boards trying to use current data and accurate information in the decision-making process. We will be sending letters to Governor Sununu, the House Finance Committee and the House Executive Departments and Administration."

At 8:30 pm Kleta motioned to adjourn, Mike seconded, and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Kleta Dudley