

Conservation Commission  
Memorial Building

September 3, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

***Note: These minutes are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Conservation Commission.***

Members present: Marla Binzel, Dan Saulnier, George McCusker, Ken Jacques  
Members present via ZOOM: Daphne Klein, Emily Cleaveland (arrived late)

Marla opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**Minutes:** Dan made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/6/20. George seconded. The minutes were approved as written, with Ken abstaining as he had not been present at the August meeting.

**Town Lots:**

- Marla reported that she and Dan went to a UNH Cooperative Extension forestry workshop in Grafton. She handed out copies of a worksheet, *Landowner Goals and Objectives*, which they were given at the workshop. This could be adapted and used as a reference when the CC is considering future timber cuts.
- Marla has contacted Dode Gladders, the Sullivan County Forestry Field Specialist, who said he would be willing to come out and look at the town lots with us and demonstrate how what one chooses to do could vary according to one's priorities and objectives.
- The container intended to hold the rusty trash that was lowered into Collins Park inadvertently landed on a hornets' nest. Marla will go out and spray the area before the next work day on September 19th at 9:00 a.m. Dan emphasized that she should not attempt this alone and volunteered to go with her.
- CC members decided to wait until Tim is back from vacation to set a date to work on the trail in the Kinsley lot that will connect with the Kinsley loop trail.
- Dan and Daphne will try to finish refreshing the boundary blazes on the town lots in the northeast corner of town before the next CC meeting.

**Wetlands:**

- Marla said that at the ZBA meeting on 9/1, the letter the CC sent concerning the proposed building plans for 2068 Main Street was read out, along with another letter that had been sent on the same subject. The next ZBA meeting will be on 9/10.
- George commented that conditions can be placed on a project, but enforcement is the issue, as the town has no code enforcement officer. Ken replied that the Planning Board puts conditions on projects all the time, and that if the conditions aren't met, a cease and desist order can be issued.
- Marla raised the question of how the CC can be proactive and not reactive. How can the CC provide educational materials and information that would help landowners make responsible decisions regarding wetlands? She said that we don't need to create our own materials as there is plenty of excellent information being generated by other organizations. The CC has received a spiral bound manual from DES, *Wetlands Best Management Techniques for Avoidance and Minimization* that is filled with photos, suggestions, and plans. The manual is also available online on the DES website and can be downloaded. Marla suggested that the CC make a copy of the manual for Whit and all present agreed. Individual CC members will also start gathering information on wetlands/lakes/ponds that could be shared with the public.

**Zoning, Planning, Selectmen Reports:**

- George reviewed some of the issues that have been discussed at the Planning Board and Select Board meetings. See the minutes on the town website for more details. He also said the Planning Board survey should be going out soon.

**Communications and Miscellaneous:**

- The CC page on the town website needs to be updated, but this has been such a busy time for so many people that this will be addressed later on.
- Daphne brought up that we really should have some alternates for the CC and encouraged CC members to talk to people who they think would be good candidates.
- Marla let people know that the NHAAC annual meeting on 11/7 will be virtual this year and encouraged people to check out the different sessions that will be offered. She strongly encouraged all new members to attend the session that is specifically designed for new CC members. <http://www.nhacc.org/>
- Marla brought up that Bruce used to have placeholders for certain topics on every CC agenda, such as Wetlands, Outreach, Conservation Lands. She hasn't been doing that unless there was something specific to discuss on a particular topic, but has decided to return to that practice to remind people of different aspects of the CC's mission and to see if that will spark discussion on these topics. So expect next month's agenda to look a little different!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Submitted by: Daphne Klein, Secretary

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Marla will spray the hornets' nest in Collins Park before 9/19.**
- **Marla will arrange to have a copy of the DES manual made for Whit.**
- **Dan and Daphne will try to finish refreshing the boundary blazes of the town lots in the northeast corner of town.**