

**Conservation Commission
Memorial Building**

**January 5, 2023
7:32**

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

Members present: Tim Fraser, Emily Cleaveland, Ken Jacques, Brooks Weathers
Alternate member present: Daphne Klein
Pending Alternate member present: Cynthia Bruss
Guests present: Jeff Lewis

Dec. Minutes: Daphne noted that she was present at the meeting in December, and since it started at 7:33, it probably didn't end at 7:29. More detail needed with regard to Marla's resignation; an official recording of our enthusiastic appreciation of her years of service. Jeff Lewis was also present as a guest. Ken moved to approve the December 1st minutes with revisions. Emily 2nded.
Unanimous approval, 1 abstention(Brooks).

Town Lots:

No Rec. Dept member was present to share thoughts and information with, but there was a short discussion about keeping trail information local, vs. sharing broadly online. Vandalism to other trails was discussed.

Workshops:

Daphne attended an online presentation in December by the NH Municipal Association entitled "Right to Know Law: Public Meetings and Public Records" that was geared for Conservation Commissions. She shared some legal advice for town affiliated meetings.

- The presenter, Stephen Buckley, said that a number of CCs are struggling with low membership and they wanted to know if the number of members for a quorum could be based on the number of current members vs the number of members stipulated in the by-laws. The answer was no; CCs must stick to by-laws. The by-laws can be changed, but if they state that 4 is a quorum, so it remains.
- Minutes need to be available to the public within 5 business days.
- Minutes need to be posted in two places. One can be on the town website; the other needs to be in a designated location. [CC needs to check to make sure this is being done.]
- Emails may be used to share information or to solicit information with or from individual CC members, but emails cannot be used to discuss policies. If the sender is asking for information, the presenter said best policy would be to :bcc the other members so that answers go only to the sender to avoid the topic becoming a discussion.
- If CC members are getting together for trail work, clean up projects etc., in which no business is conducted, no meeting postings are required, but the CC may want to post a notice if general public assistance is welcome.

NH State Forest Nursery Seedlings:

Tim made a motion that permission be given to Emily to purchase 50 seedlings for potting up to generate plants for free distribution to town members. Brooks 2nded. Unanimous approval. Suggested varieties were Balsam Fir, Wetlands package, or a mix of both.

Some discussion was had about "root wads" suggested to Ken by the LSPA for stream erosion control. No one else had heard of the method, but found it a curious sounding practice. Ken then explained what the new technique requires.

Outreach:

Emily called and left a message for Peter to have the brush picked up from the Collins Park clean-up. Peter Keene has expressed an interest in helping with trail work on the Kinsley lot.

Cynthia asked about trail closing on the SRKG. Ken explained that a spur off the main trail along Kidder Brook that goes across the bridge was closed due to poor condition of the trails from overuse.

Other board summaries:

Zoning and Planning still working on short term rentals. There will be upcoming news on the noise ordinance front.

Election of Officers & Commission members:

Ken nominated: Tim Fraser to Chair, Brooks Weathers to Vice-chair, Emily Cleaveland to Secretary. Tim nominated Ken Jacques to Treasurer. Brooks 2nded that slate of officers. Unanimous approval, no abstentions.

Tim moved to nominate Jeff Lewis as new member to the commission. Emily 2nded. Unanimous approval, no abstentions.

Cynthia Bruss noted that she has not heard anything from the Selectboard as to her nomination, and was given the impression that the CC is responsible for it's own members. Ken offered to look into the matter and see that both Cynthia and Jeff (and possibly Brooks) are all made official.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Submitted by: Emily Cleaveland, secretary.