

**Conservation Commission
Memorial Building**

**May 6th, 2021
7:00 p.m. with 7:30 start**

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

Members present: Tim Fraser, Dan Saulnier, Ken Jacques, Emily Cleaveland, Daphne Klein (alt.)
Present via zoom: Selectboard representative Tamara Butcher

In the absence of Chairperson Marla, Tim (vice-chair) opened the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Mask Policy: Members did not feel strongly one way or the other about the wearing of masks in the building during the Conservation Commission meetings. Ken proposed the committee proceed with the policy upheld by the Springfield Town offices, which is to make them optional. Dan 2nded, and the motion passed unanimously. Noted was that all members chose to continue wearing masks voluntarily.

Minutes: Daphne pointed out that she could not have moved to approve the April minutes, as she was an alternate, and did not act in any formal capacity. It was agreed that Dan must have moved to approve the March minutes, and Dan moved to approve the minutes of 04/01/2021 with that change. Tim seconded, and the April minutes were approved unanimously as amended with one abstention. (Ken; not present at the April meeting).

Possible changes to CC bylaws:

- No one could explain why it was necessary to change the start of officer terms from January to March. Tamara did not think the Selectboard asked for it, Pixie was consulted, and she did not have any qualms about January to December terms. Ken pointed out that as the officers are not elected, but appointed, that they do not need to hinge on Town Meeting, Emily noted that January Selectboard members are 'seasoned' and possibly in a better position to choose Commission officers.

The terms were left at appointed in January.

Daphne found a clause in the bylaws that stated that: *"These by-laws and rules of procedure may be amended by a majority vote of the Commission at a regular meeting provided that the proposed amendments must have been presented to the Commission at the regular meeting preceding the meeting at which the vote is taken."*

Dan moved to amend the by-laws to state that the Commission meet the 1st Thursday of each month. Ken seconded. The motion remains on the floor until next meeting.

Emily moved to move the start time from 7 to 7:30 for the foreseeable future. Tim seconded. The motion remains on the floor until next meeting.

Town Lots:

- In the absence of Marla, the GRANIT discussion was tabled until next month.
- Daphne shared her excellent NHACC mapping webinar experience about how Conservation Commissions can use online mapping tools. The maps she shared were informative and fascinating, and there was general agreement that more should be printed, laminated, and made available to the town to peruse. Ken (treasurer) assured her that the CC balance would cover such a project without the need for a motion, and recommended she go ahead and put them together for the Conservation's next town interaction. Daphne will send out relevant links to all CC members.
- Emily's webinar "Invasives on Townland" was a listing of current and potential future invasives, and could be summed up with a combination of a visit to the NH extension service's Guide to Upland

Invasive Species; <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/new-hampshire-guide-upland-invasive-species> and Umass Amherst's <https://masswoods.org/outsmart-workflow>. There was no information provided on how to mitigate the invasives already present on town lands. Raising the topic did, however, generate some informative discussion among members on invasive control.

- Ken approached Brooks Weathers, who circled the area on a map of Kinsley Lot where he found the mature pines. (see enclosure included with minutes) Tim concurred that these were the same trees he thought were ready for harvest. Tim wanted to know if current lumber prices dictated 'now' being the best time for harvest. Ken shared that while lumber is in high demand right now, mills have a back-log and shortage of staff. Best to wait for optimal timber price.
- Ken, Dan and Brooks are still working on setting up a time to cruise and assess the 4 town lots in the Northeast corner of Springfield.

Outreach:

- Green Up Day went well. Many participants, lots of road mileage covered. A bit of a chuckle at concern about 'garbage dumped' at Collins Park, which was a collection of the trash unearthed at our last Collins Park clean-up, and the netting used to cover the hornet's nest. Some discussion about re-visiting Collins Park clean-up days ensued, and suggested perhaps we put that on next month's agenda, when black flies have thinned out.
- No preference was given to date or time for Yellow Osier Dogwood seedling planting day, so it was left up to Marla and Emily. Suggestions were made as to events to give away the potted plants; one of the Historical Society events? Springfield Recreation's Field Day? The Town Yard Sale?
- This segued into discussion of a Conservation Commission event. Daphne reported that Susan Chiarella had asked Marla if the CC would be interested in co-sponsoring a program on the Emerald Ash Borer. A family friendly event such as a nature scavenger hunt was also discussed. This idea was very popular.

Zoning, Planning, Selectmen Reports

- Nothing out of the ordinary or having to do with Conservation except that the planning board is about to have a conversation about wetlands. Selectboard is waiting on wetland approval from State for culvert.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Submitted by: Emily Cleaveland, Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ken and Dan will continue to seek a time to go cruising with Brooks Weathers.
- Marla will pick up seedlings, and Emily (and any volunteers) will help plant next week (5/11-5/13).
- Marla will continue progress on GRANIT update.
- Collins Park clean-up will be added to next month's agenda.
- The continuation and vote of the change of by-laws will also be added to next month's agenda.