

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

Members present: Marla Binzel, Emily Cleveland, Tim Fraser, Dick Hendl, Ken Jacques, Dan Saulnier  
Others present: none

Marla opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

### **Minutes**

- December 2021 minutes reviewed. It was noted that the spelling of Fraser and Hendl should be adjusted. Approved as amended.

### **Election of Officers**

- The following nominations were made:
  - Marla Binzel, Chair
  - Tim Fraser, Vice Chair
  - Ken Jacques, Treasurer
  - Dan Saulnier, Secretary
- All suggested agreed to serve if elected. Ken moved to adopt the slate above. Tim seconded. Unanimous approval.

### **Wetlands and Watersheds**

- Marla noted that NH DES approved the bridge and culvert on Sandy Beach Road.

### **Town Lots**

- Ken reported that he and Brooks Weathers cruised the NE lots. Some hardwood strands, and some spruce, but the cost of improving access to the lots might swallow any revenue from the lumber. Brooks is working to prepare a written report to detail his findings. Decision deferred until after report is ready.
- Ken suggested the Society and Arch lots may have better trees and be closer to ready for harvest. Access to these lots continues to be difficult. Ken will reach out to the folks on Dutchman Pond about using their road, and will speak to others who own adjacent property. We'll need, at a minimum, to locate the boundary pins. Marla to check the files to see what we have.
- Marla noted that Dode Gladders and Tim Fleury of the UNH Extension have been promoting Forest Carbon Markets as a potential way for landowners to bring in revenue by agreeing to not harvest timber. Ken pointed out that, depending on how long term the contracts are, they could end up costing a lot in opportunity costs if you can't harvest when timber is ready. This program can be evaluated along with traditional options when we get more details back from Brooks.

### **Outreach**

- It is time to select and order saplings for the summer give-away. Marla and Emily volunteered to plant the bare root specimens and care for them until they're ready to be adopted to new homes. Emily culled the available options to three species: Silver Maple, Black Walnut, and Ninebark. After some discussion, it was agreed to order 50 Ninebark saplings.
- Tim to look at drafting a one-sheet information flyer about the activities of the Conservation Commission.

### **Goals discussed for 2022**

- Daphne (via Marla) suggested that we finish the connector trail for the Kinsley Loop, and lead a public walk.
- Marla suggested organizing the existing information about the town lots into a binder and/or a single page at the front of each file in the records room. History, boundaries, information on last cut, etc. could all be listed in one spot. Some discussion ensued about wider publishing of trailheads and parking. However, it was also pointed out that publishing such information online has led to degradation of resources, so we should be cautious about this.
- Emily suggested continuing the cleanup of Collins Park, which is really coming along.
- Tim followed up on an earlier discussion about getting a pamphlet together to explain the Conservation Commission's role. He had printed the information on the Town's website as a starting point, and encouraged everyone to think about what else should be included prior to our next meeting.
- Dan suggested updating our Natural Resources Inventory. Marla has been looking at this in detail, and thinks we should be able to accomplish it.

### **Zoning, Planning, and Select Board Reports**

- Select Board has been discussing short-term rentals, and a new area for the sand shed.
- Planning Board continues to make progress on the draft Noise Ordinance, and also discussed short-term rentals. It was noted that SB 249 proposes to restrict regulation of short-term rentals to the State level.

### **Communications and Miscellaneous**

- The Commission discussed the new requirements for unsealing and publishing minutes to previous non-public sessions. The Springfield Conservation Commission is not aware of having entered into non-public session at any time in the past. Therefore, no previously sealed minutes need to be unsealed. Should this prove to be inaccurate, any such minutes will be made publicly available as soon as practicable. Dick noted that Tamara Butcher set up a spreadsheet to track sealed minutes for any board or commission, not that we're likely to need it any time soon.
- The Emerald Ash Borer is now thriving in our area. The Spotted Lantern Fly is on its way here, currently in Connecticut.
- Annual Report write-ups are due on January 20. Marla is working on that.

### **Correspondence**

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by: Dan Saulnier