

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

Members present: Marla Binzel, Emily Cleveland, Ken Jacques, Daphne Klein (alternate), Dan Saulnier

Others present: Cynthia Bruss

Marla opened the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Daphne was activated as a voting member.

Minutes

- January 2022 minutes reviewed (note that February 2022 meeting was canceled due to snow). Ken motioned to approve minutes; Dan seconded. Approved with 3 in favor, one abstention.

Wetlands and Watersheds

- Planning Board has been discussing how wetlands should be evaluated in town. This is probably most noticeable in how driveway construction is approved.

Town Lots

- Ken presented a report that Brooks Weathers authored summarizing his findings and recommendations from when Brooks and Ken cruised the NE lots on January 6, 2022. Report provides a paragraph assessment of the timber on each of the four lots, predictions of when they might be ready for harvest, and general recommendation. Overall, it appears the best approach is to let them go for about ten years (until 2032), and at that point harvest some areas and improve other areas for future growth. Some opportunity exists to create views at that time. Brooks may get back out to look at the McDonald and School Lots in more detail later.
- Brooks will get in touch with Tim about walking Kinsley Lot.
- As promised, Marla checked the files and provided Ken with plot plans for the Society and Arch. Ken will try to get out there with Brooks in the near future.

Outreach

- Tim drafted a one-sheet information flyer about the activities of the Conservation Commission. Marla requested we all review it and send comments to her prior to the next meeting so we can move this along.
- Ordering saplings for the summer give-away has proven difficult, with many varieties out of stock. Marla ended up ordering Silver Maple, with American Filbert as back-up.
- John Trachy sent Marla a note to let us know that Ann and Mark Davis, who own Springfield's Woods Without Gile, are receiving an award for their tree farming activities. There will be an event to present this award on October 1, and John suggested the Conservation Commission might want to participate. Marla will reach out to the Davis's to offer our congratulations and an offer of assistance.
- Green-Up Day is scheduled for May 7, 2022. Advertising will be through Pixie and the community Facebook page.
- Cynthia Bruss attended on behalf of the Agriculture Commission. They have some events in the works, including an open house at the Ellis's sugar house (soon), and a grape and apple pruning workshop (in May). Cynthia suggested that the Agriculture Commission, the Conservation Commission, and the Recreation Committee could benefit from coordinating their events. This

idea was well received by Conservation. Dan agreed to put Cynthia in touch with the Rec Committee.

Zoning, Planning, and Select Board Reports

- Select Board has been focused on the upcoming election and Town Meeting. Everyone is urged to attend. Ken and Daphne reminisced about the good old days when Town Meeting was on Tuesdays, and everyone came out with pot-luck lunch items to make a day of it. The environmental permit came through for the repairs on the Gove Brook culvert under George Hill Road, so that will probably get done this summer when the stream flow is low.
- Planning Board is updating and formalizing their processes. They also continue to discuss wetland issues (see Wetlands and Watersheds, above).

Communications and Miscellaneous

- None.

Correspondence

- Note received from John Trachy, discussed under Outreach.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by: Dan Saulnier