

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

Members present: Erin Meding, Martin Bean, Ken Jacques, Cynthia Bruss (Alternate), Daphne Klein (Alternate)

Also: Joshua McGraw, James Bednar (both Springfield residents)

Erin opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m. and asked those present to introduce themselves.

Minutes: Cynthia made a motion to correct the minutes with the following correction: Daphne Cline should be changed to Daphne Klein. Martin seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

Town Lots:

- Martin secured the bridge over the stream in the Kinsley Lot by hammering a spike into the ground. A more permanent stream crossing will be installed in the spring.
- Cynthia and Daphne removed some of the trees and branches that had come down across the trail in the recent snowstorms.

Conservation Plant of the Year:

- Erin spoke with Greg at SpringLedge who generously provided the CC with 2 gallon pots for the 50 pussy willow seedlings that will be distributed this summer. Greg indicated they have a number of them and will meet with Erin in March to confirm donation.

Outreach:

- Joshua McGraw thanked the CC for their support of the Fish and Game purchase of two large tracts of land in the northwest corner of Springfield. He said that the letters from the different organizations in Springfield were very helpful. The area will be open to the public for multiple uses and the closing should be completed no later than May.
- A goal of the CC is to create a map of Springfield that shows all the town owned lots as well as walking trails and areas of interest such as vernal pools.
- Jim Bednar then introduced himself as the president of the Springfield Historical Society and said that he was pleased to hear these plans as one of his goals is to get the chairs of the various organizations in Springfield together so they can compare notes on the activities they would like to organize or be involved in. His hope is that this will prevent duplication of events and by working together they can come up with a calendar that includes activities of all the town organizations. CC members agreed this would be helpful.
- Erin reported on the LSPA follow up session she attended on 1/24 regarding the environmental impact of salt use on roads in winter. Although many people think the worst impact is from the salt used on roads, it is estimated that in our area 53% is from individuals applying salt incorrectly. She said the presentation on alternatives that people can use was very informative, and she would like the CC to do a presentation on these alternatives in the fall.
- Erin also reported that the Tri-town Watershed committee (New London, Sunapee, and Newbury) would like a CC member to attend their meetings. Let Erin know if you would be interested in doing this.

Zoning/Planning/Selectmen Reports:

- In Don's absence, Ken reported that Planning is working on an ordinance that will establish guidelines for short term rentals.

Communications and Miscellaneous:

- CC members whose terms expired at the end of 2023 need to go to the Town Office to complete the paperwork as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Submitted by: Daphne Klein, Alternate