

**Town of Northwood  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
June 2, 2015**

Chairman Steve Roy calls the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Present:** Chairman Steve Roy, Vice Chairman Steven Hampl, James Ryan, Wini Young, Thomas Chase, Board Administrator Linda Smith, and Board Secretary Lisa Fellows-Weaver.

**Absent:** Alternate Loren O'Neil, and Alternate Michael Matson.

**MINUTES**

***May 5, 2015***

**Mr. Hampl makes a motion, second by Mr. Chase, to approve the May 5, 2015 minutes, with edits that do not alter the content of the wording.**

**Motion passes; 3/0/2.** *Mr. Roy and Ms. Young abstain as they were not at the meeting.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Letter of Resignation***

Mr. Roy refers to the May minutes and notes that the commission did accept Mr. Lussier's letter of resignation with regret. **Mr. Roy makes a motion, second by Mr. Hampl, to send a letter to Mr. Lussier thanking him for his time and service to the commission. Motion passes unanimously; 4/0.**

**INTERNAL BUSINESS**

***Membership***

A discussion is held regarding the current number of members on the commission. Ms. Smith explains that the commission currently consists of 6 members; however, one member has resigned. The membership now consists of five regular members. She states that the RSA states that there can be no less than three members and no more than seven members; alternates can be appointed and there is no limit of alternates. The commission procedures state a total membership of seven is required which would require a quorum of four.

Mr. Roy states that at the last meeting there were discussions held regarding reducing the commission to 5 members and whether that would put too much authority on the individuals. Ms. Smith states that the commission could have a procedure that any vote made must have the quorum of three members vote in the affirmative.

Further discussions are held and the commission agrees to reach out to the friends, the community, etc. for involvement. If there is no interest then the commission will advertise for members and interested parties can attend the next month's meeting and/or hold an event for community involvement to attract members. If these two options are not successful then the commission will reduce their members to five members.

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This item is continued to next month.

**OTHER**

Mr. Chase states that he attended the NH Lakes Association Conference. He provides a brief overview of the topics and programs addressed. He mentions the current milfoil treatments. He explains that he won a raffle for hand pulling of milfoil. He states that Jenness Pond does not have milfoil and he has contacted the representatives of the Northwood Lake Watershed Association who indicated that all funds for milfoil had been expended this year.

Discussion ensues. Mr. Chase states that he will contact the Town of Epsom Selectmen to see if they have any interest in the milfoil pulling or he will see if there is another option such as a survey of the boat launch area to see if there is any milfoil in that area.

***Johnson Land Donation Update***

Ms. Smith provides an update relative to the Johnson property. She explains that everything is completed. The title company is contacting the property owner prior to the documents being mailed out. The documents will then be sent off to the property owner for signatures, and then returned back to the town. She states that she does not feel that it is necessary for the commission to attend a meeting with the selectmen for the signatures. She states that the title company would like to meet at town hall during the day over the next few weeks and have a member of the commission along with a member of the board of selectmen and sign the necessary documents. She states that no public hearings are necessary. She will circulate the information of this meeting when it becomes available.

***Scenic Roads***

Ms. Smith states that there has been much discussion recently from various town boards/committees regarding Sherburne Hill Road, which is a designated scenic road. She states that she has received numerous calls and emails regarding the marking of recent trees along the road that had been marked to be cleared for purposes of maintaining the road. She states that the selectmen are aware that there is a process that needs to be followed. She has reviewed the process and the statutes and what can be cleared is anything that does not meet the criteria in the statute, which is 15" in diameter at 4' above ground. Anything on a person's property that is this size or larger must be marked and the property owner is notified. She notes that there is a notification timeframe as well as an appeal time frame. The planning board is required to hold a public hearing for any work proposed on the designated scenic road and this will be held June 25, 2015. Public notices will be posted in the Suncook Valley Sun, June 10 and June 17. Ms. Smith notes that the town planner has provided a GIS map noting the trees.

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***Meadow State Park***

Mr. Roy explains that he was contacted by the chairman of the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) regarding setting up a meeting in Northwood. He states that the LRAC commented to DRED when the permit was filed relative to the Meadow Lake dam. He states that the emergency spillway was constructed last fall. A meeting was held between LRAC and DRED and LRAC met after at the community center and he attended.

Mr. Roy explains that it appears that the Dam Bureau is refusing a reconstruction project to the dam without a substantial redesign and the rebuild of the impoundment. He states that it appears that the current level will be the elevation of the pond. LRAC suggested that the pond be drained, breach the impoundment and let it return back to the bog. He states that the pond has been drained 5' vertical and he adds that there is no plan to bring the pond back up at this time. He adds that at the deepest point it is just shy of 8 ft. deep.

Mr. Roy notes that the spillway was very impressive and is doing its job. He states that DRED will need to make a decision. He explains the options available.

Mr. Roy further explains that also given at the LRAC meeting was a presentation from Trout Unlimited including a presentation from the chief culvert engineer and the NRCS contact and the USDA grant writer. Mr. Roy states that the Dam Bureau just approved a similar project at Stoddard Lake. The project involved filling the old culvert with concrete and built a fish ladder where the emergency spillway was located and raised the elevation of the fish ladder to pull the elevation of the pond up. He states that a lengthy discussion was held at the LRAC meeting regarding this option. The cost was \$180,000.

Mr. Roy states that he is a member of the steering committee of the Friends of the Northwood State Park. He states that this pond is one of the only handicap accessible ponds with an accessible shoreline and now it is no longer that. Further discussion ensues regarding state budgeting of the project. Mr. Roy notes that this is a non-revenue park. Ms. Smith notes that this is a high use park and discussion ensues regarding the many groups that use the park.

Mr. Roy states that the pond has relevancy and he is still processing the options. He notes that the state has dam removal funds; however, there is currently no funding for dam construction.

Mr. Roy explains the location of another project that will be an instream project to create brook trout habitat in the Lamprey River. He states that this is a different type of project to be funded as it is a 3<sup>rd</sup> order stream project.

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***GPS Trails***

Mr. Roy requests to reach out to Emma Yates regarding the trails in the Hemlock Tree area of the School Lot and ask her if she would GPS some trails and compile the trail information. Members agree that this is a great idea.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Mr. Ryan, to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.  
Motion passes unanimously; 4/0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fellows-Weaver  
Board Secretary

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