

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
December 5, 2023**

Chair Levergood called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Grace Levergood, Vice-Chair Wini Young, Tom Chase, and Michael Romano.

Town Staff: Land Use Administrative Assistant Lisa Fellows-Weaver.

MINUTES

November 7, 2023

Chair Levergood made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romano, to approve the minutes of November 7, 2023, as written.

Chair Levergood amended the motion, to approve the minutes of November 7, 2023, as amended, with edits that do not alter the content.

Ms. Young seconded the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

November 15, 2023 ~ Site Walk ~ Town Forest

On a motion made by Chair Levergood, and seconded by Vice-Chair Young, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the site walk minutes of November 15, 2023, as written.

November 18, 2023 ~ Site Walk ~ Hannaford's

On a motion made by Chair Levergood, and seconded by Mr. Chase, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the site walk minutes of November 18, 2023, as written.

Public Input – none

Appointments

1. Scott Frankiewicz for LSF, Inc., 268 Jenness Pond Road, Map 203; Lot 19.

Scott Frankiewicz, of NH Land Consultants, represented the Applicant.

Mr. Frankiewicz reviewed the history of the project, noting prior meetings, and site walks with various boards, including the Conservation Commission. This change is proposed due to the requirement by the Planning Board. He stated that the Commission had previously given a written recommendation of support for the Special Exception to the ZBA, for the project without widening the road. Currently there are two existing driveways that impact the wetland buffers only. They are now proposing to have a 16-foot-wide gravel surface with 2-foot shoulders for a total of 20 feet for the side gravel driveway, for the entire length of the road. The proposed lower driveway will impact the wetlands directly now and does require NHDES Wetlands Impact Permit, which is being prepared by Damon Burt of Fraggie Rock Environmental. The impacts are essential to the productive use of the land not within the Wetland Conservation Overlay District. There is no change proposed to the upper driveway.

The following four impacts are for a common driveway for lots 19 & 19-1:

Wetland Buffer Impact #1 - 4,040 sq. ft.

Wetland Buffer Impact #2 – 3,175 sq. ft.

Wetland Buffer Impact #3 – 2,210 sq. ft.

Wetland Buffer Impact #4 – 700 sq. ft.

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
December 5, 2023**

The following impact is for the common driveway servicing lots 19-2, 19-3 and access for Map 202; Lot 2:

Impact #4 – 400 sq. ft.

General discussion ensued as the plan was reviewed. Mr. Frankiewicz noted that the water from the wetland does eventually drain into Jenness Pond. He noted there is a wetland pocket within the tree area.

Ms. Young asked how far the houses will be from the wetlands. Mr. Frankiewicz stated that the structures would not be contributing to the pollution into the wetlands.

Mr. Chase noted that this area is the Big Woods Conservation Overlay District. Discussion ensued regarding future developments. Mr. Frankiewicz stated that the owner had originally discussed building only four houses; however, has changed his mind.

On a motion made by Chair Levergood, and seconded by Mr. Chase, the Commission voted unanimously to send a memo to the Zoning Board stating that the Commission supports the impacts to the wetland, as described, due to the proposed expansion of the driveways, as proposed to be 16-feet wide with two-foot shoulders for a total of a 20 foot gravel driveway for the entire road length.

2. Norman Royce - Northwood Lake Watershed Association

Mr. Royce, Northwood Lake Watershed Association President, met with the Commission to discuss the ongoing concerns of invasive species in Northwood Lake. He stated that the milfoil is still present, and they continue to work to contain it. In addition, there are other invasive species now including cyanobacteria. He reviewed the ongoing issues caused by cyanobacteria and stated that there needs to be a good understanding of the septic systems around the lake.

Mr. Royce mentioned recent House Bills that have passed and the funding mechanisms available to address these issues. He explained the Northwood Lake Watershed Association has motioned to generate a management plan and fund the effort. They have applied for a grant in the amount of \$75,000. He anticipated full approval and stated that a team will need to be established. He stated that he would like to have a member of the NCC be a part of the steering team; approximate time frame would be April to June 2024 for 12 to 18 months.

A Letter of commitment 2024 Water Quality Planning Grants – 604(b) – Northwood Lake Watershed Management Plan was reviewed.

On a motion made by Mr. Chase, and seconded by Mr. Romano, the Commission voted unanimously to authorize Chair Levergood to sign the letter of commitment indicating the Conservation Commission's involvement throughout the development process.

Mr. Chase offered to be the NCC representative for the steering committee.

Additional discussion was held regarding the Commission working with the area lake associations. It was suggested that a joint meeting be held in the summer with the Commission and all the area lake associations.

Mr. Chase mentioned the proposed warrant articles related to invasive species.

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
December 5, 2023**

3. Ralph Blackey – 85 Olde Canterbury Road. Map 216; Lot 23

Mr. Blackey met with the Commission in response to a letter he received from the Code Enforcement Officer, a potential violation of work being conducted around the pond on his property. He explained that the pond is not new; it was created in 1940 by his grandfather. He has been trying to clean up the area around the pond and was unaware that any permit was required. He explained that he has not filled in any of the pond area; there is water in the pond currently, and much of the area is grassed over. Pictures were provided.

Chair Levergood stated that any work in a wetland, using machinery, requires a permit through NHDES.

The Commission recommended Mr. Blackey contact NHDES for proper permitting.

New Business – none

Old Business

- **Operation Land Share Program**

Ms. Weaver stated that the Operation Land Share signs have been received. These signs are specific to conservation land only to add to buffer zones for *Safety* and *No Motorized Vehicles*.

Ms. Young suggested asking the Recreation Director if he would like replace the existing signs along the southern edge of the rec fields. She stated that the Commission could also use these signs at the School Lot and Giles Lot.

- **Trails Day: Hike November 19, 2023 – update**

Ms. Young stated that Trails Day was successful. A discussion was held regarding future hikes. A snowshoe hike was suggested for Saddleback Mountain for late January, pending snow.

Town Staff Items

The following items were reviewed and addressed, as follows:

- **Intent to Cut Requests - none**

- **Invasive Control - Bow Street - Update from Highway Foreman**

Ms. Weaver stated that she contacted Highway Foreman Chris Brown, as directed by the Commission, regarding an invasive species complaint on Bow Street. Mr. Brown stated that he would contact the private contractor and it will be addressed next year.

- **NCC Annual Review – December/January**

Ms. Young will update this review. To be added to the January agenda.

- **Wetland Violation – Main Street, Map 110; Lot 35.**

Ms. Weaver followed up on Mr. Chase's concern from last month regarding a potential wetland violation at the corner of First NH Turnpike and Main Street. A violation notification was sent to the property owner in June. Staff will follow-up and report back in January.

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
December 5, 2023**

- **NHDES Correspondence (as noted):**

- *Expedited Minimum Impact Application: Cowan, Kramas Lane. Map 102; Lot 9. (40-day hold - 9/5/23). ZBA Approval 11/16/23.*
- *Standard Dredge & Fill Application: Hughes, 7 North Lane. Map 108; Lot 90. (40-day hold - 9/5/23). NHDES - Denied Application.*

Chair Report/Comments

- **Hannaford Monitoring Easement Site Walk - Update**

A discussion was held regarding the need to address the easement area. It was suggested that this would be a good time of year to blaze the area. Staff will check with the process of addressing clean-up, who pays attention to the properties that have easements.

This item was continued to January.

- **Timber Harvest Yield Tax - Update**

Ms. Weaver stated that the Selectboard continued this item to their December 12, 2023 meeting, pending additional information. Continued to January.

Correspondence/Other

- **Bear-Paw Regional Greenways – Town Forest Easements**

A discussion was held regarding inviting Kaitlin Deyo from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways to attend the January 2, 2024, meeting to discuss conservation easements on the town forests. Ms. Young will reach out to Ms. Deyo and see if she will be able to attend.

- **Guptill Maps**

Ms. Young stated that Ann Deely will be updating the Guptill maps for the Commission.

- **NHACC – Forestry PBN, Tasker Shore Drive, Map 110; Lots 21 & 22** - No action required.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Chair Levergood, and seconded by Mr. Romano, and unanimously accepted, at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Fellows-Weaver,
Land Use Administrative Assistant