

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
May 2, 2023
DRAFT**

1 Chair Levergood called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2 **Present:** Chair Grace Levergood, Vice-Chair Wini Young, Grace Mattern, Steve Hampl,
3 Tom Chase, Michael Romano, and Alternate Susan Romano.

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

5 **MINUTES**

6 ***April 4, 2023***

7 **Chair Levergood made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romano, to approve the**
8 **minutes of April 4, 2023.**

9 **Chair Levergood amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Romano, to approve the**
10 **minutes of April 4, 2023, with edits that do not alter the content. The motion**
11 **carried unanimously.**

12 **APPOINTMENTS**

13 ***Kaitlin Deyo, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways***

14 Mr. and Mrs. Romano recused themselves and left the table.

15 Ms. Deyo of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways met with the Commission to discuss the
16 potential for a private easement and possible funding options for land owned by
17 Michael and Susan Romano, Blakes Hill Road.

18 Ms. Deyo gave an overview of the property noting the qualities of the 70 acre parcel,
19 specifically the high conservation values, and the wildlife, which has been noted to be
20 the highest wildlife action plan in the region. She stated that the parcel is on the
21 boundaries of Northwood and Deerfield with connectivity to State of NH land, the
22 Northwood Meadows. The area also consists of wetlands, vernal pools, as well as a
23 connection to the Lamprey and Merrimack River. Plans were reviewed.

24 Ms. Deyo stated that Bear-Paw is interested in having the land conserved as a private
25 easement and asked if the Commission had any interest. Discussion ensued regarding
26 the financial feasibility. Ms. Deyo explained that there are grant opportunities;
27 however, they are either not applicable for this type of project, are not available in this
28 area, or the timing does not work out. She mentioned the moose plate grant is an
29 example of timing as it would not be closed until 2025.

30 Ms. Deyo stated that she is looking for funding for the transactional costs for the
31 easement, approximately \$48-\$50,000 including all costs and a survey.

32 Discussion ensued. Additional discussion was held relative to pursuing the moose
33 plant grant first and the completion timing. Members agreed that this would be a good
34 project and the area should be preserved.

35 **On a motion made by Mr. Chase, and seconded by Ms. Mattern, the Commission**
36 **voted unanimously to support the Romano properties easement at Blakes Hill**
37 **Road, Map 230; Lot 9, and for Bear paw Regional Greenways to move forward**
38 **with the project; funding to come from the Conservation Fund.**

39 Ms. Deyo will continue to work on the easement project and return to the Commission
40 with a full proposal and total amount of the project.

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41 *Mr. & Mrs. Romano returned to the table as voting members.*

42 **INTERNAL BUSINESS**

43 ***Town Forest Management Plan – Review***

44 The Town Forest Management Plan was previously provided for member’s review.
45 Overall, members felt the management plan was thorough and well done.

46 Chair Levergood commented that the Commission does not need to act on all the Town
47 lots right away.

48 Chair Levergood noted there are some typos throughout the document. She stated that
49 she would email the corrections to Mr. Comeau to update.

50 Final document to be added to the website. Ms. Young noted that Appendix B is noted
51 as confidential.

52 A discussion was held regarding encroachments. It was agreed that the Commission
53 should have a discussion in the future about signage relative to non-motorized
54 vehicles.

55 **On a motion made by Chair Levergood, and seconded by Ms. Romano, the**
56 **Commission voted unanimously to accept the Forest Management Plan, dated**
57 **February 15, 2023, with corrections noted.**

58 ***Schedule Site Walk - Upper Camp Road***

59 A discussion was held regarding a site walk to walk the boundaries of the Town Forest
60 and School Lots. A site walk was scheduled for Wednesday, May 10 at 9 a.m. at the
61 Woodman Park boat launch, with a rain date for May 11.

62 ***Trails Day – June 3, 9:30 a.m.***

63 This item was postponed to next month.

64 ***Public Hearing Village of Northwood Ridge Water District Conservation***
65 ***Easement***

66 A public hearing will be held June 6, at 7:15 p.m. for the Village of Northwood Ridge
67 Water District Conservation Easement

68 ***Conservation Easement - Map 235; Lot 1***

69 Ms. Young stated that she contacted Chris Demeritt and walked the conservation
70 easement. She will provide Staff with her comments to forward to members for the
71 June meeting.

72 ***Other Boards/Committee/Organizations Updates ~ Meetings - Updates***

73 ***Safety/Facilities Committee***

74 As a member of the facilities committee, Mr. Chase mentioned a two acre parcel of
75 land to the west of the police station as a potential site for a future safety complex or
76 new police department. He suggested that he contact the Town Forester for
77 information on a tree assessment of the property for potential cutting.

78 Members agreed to have Mr. Chase contact the Town Forester.

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79 *Planning/Zoning Meetings - Liaisons*

80 A discussion was held regarding potential projects that may come before the Planning
81 Board and potential impacts. Additional discussion ensued relative to the Commission
82 attending other Board/Committee meetings. Staff will provide information to the
83 Commission at their meetings relating to upcoming projects and the Commission can
84 determine if a member should attend the respective meeting. An informational item
85 will be added to the agenda.

86 *Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative (NALMC)*

87 Ms. Young stated that NALMC will be working on the trails later in the summer, date
88 to be determined. She will continue to provide updates accordingly.

89 **CORRESPONDENCE**

90 *Intent to Cut Requests, Bow Street – Map 230; Lots 38 & 40.*

91 The Intent to Cut was reviewed. No action was required.

92 *NHDES Correspondence: none*

93 **ADJOURNMENT**

94 ***Motion to adjourn was made by Chair Levergood, seconded by Mr. Chase, and***
95 ***unanimously accepted at 8:42 pm.***

96 Respectfully submitted,

97

98 Lisa Fellows-Weaver,
99 Land Use Administrative Assistant