

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
June 6, 2023**

Vice-Chair Young called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

Present: Vice-Chair Wini Young, Priscilla Merrill, Grace Mattern, Steve Hampl, Tom Chase, Michael Romano, Alternate Susan Romano, and Selectboard Representative Jim Guzofski.

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

MINUTES

May 2, 2023

Vice-Chair Young made a motion, seconded by Ms. Romano, to approve the minutes of May 2, 2023.

Vice-Chair Young amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Romano, to approve the minutes of May 2, 2023, with edits that do not alter the content. The motion passed unanimously.

May 10, 2023

Vice-Chair Young made a motion, seconded by Ms. Merrill, to approve the site walk minutes of May 10, 2023. The motion passed; 5/0/2. Ms. Romano and Mr. Hampl abstained as they did not attend the site walk.

APPOINTMENTS

Public Hearing

Expend \$42,950 from the Conservation Fund for the Village of Northwood Ridge Water District conservation easement.

Ms. Young opened the hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Bob Young, Commissioner of The Village of Northwood Ridge Water District (VNRWD), met with the Commission and provided an overview. He explained that the Water Districts has a number of parcels that have been purchased in and around the Acorn Ponds Conservation Area Overlay District for protection of the water supply in the future. He stated that the land will be called Jake's Purchase. He mentioned that there will be another grant opportunity available in 2024 for additional parcels. He noted that the VNRWD did meet with the Selectboard as well as proposed a warrant article, which passed at the District's annual meeting to transfer the easement on the land. He thanked the Commission for their assistance with funding.

The public portion was opened. With no public comment and no comments from the Commission, the public hearing was closed.

It was noted that a motion was made and passed at a prior meeting, to authorize the expenditure of \$42,950 from the existing current use funds, in order to place the District's land into a conservation easement.

INTERNAL BUSINESS/FOLLOW UP

Conservation Land: Contact and Approach Landowners About Conserving Land

A handout was provided to members to be used as a template to assist the Commission with ideas on how to approach landowners who may want to consider conserving their land. General discussions were held. The consensus was that the Commission would schedule a work session to discuss and establish goals and create some criteria for

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conserving land; perhaps establish a “campaign” to encourage and educate residents to conserve their land as well as how to retain the natural resources and natural beauty of Northwood.

Work session was scheduled for July 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Trails Day

Ms. Young noted that there is a new trail on the Mead lot that CBNA owns. She stated that the Commission could host some walks/hikes on the Town’s conservation land in the fall.

This item to remain on the agenda.

Bean Hole Bash & 250th Celebration

Members discussed having a table at the Bean Hole Bash & 250th Celebration. It was agreed that Mr. and Mrs. Romano and Mr. Chase would be able to attend and have a table with various conservation items/information. Ms. Young stated that she would create a map of the Town’s conservation lands.

Conservation Easement - Map 235; Lot 1

A discussion was held regarding the Upper Deerfield Road conservation easement. After reviewing the easement deed, any communication must be sent via certified mail. The Commission requested a letter be sent, via certified mail, to the property owner requesting they attend the August 1, 2023, meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE/FOLLOW UP

The following items were reviewed; no action was taken:

- NHDES – Shoreland Permit at 54 Lower Camp Road, Map 125; Lot 50
- NHDOT - RR-8, Route 202
- Lamprey River Advisory Committee
- Timber Harvest Notification – Forest Peters Wildlife Management Area

The following item was reviewed; action required as noted:

- NH Lakes Donation Request: postponed to August 1, 2023

OTHER BUSINESS

Parsonage Lot – NEMBA

Ms. Young stated that there is a trail at the north end of the Parsonage Lot that needs to be addressed. She explained that there is a log bridge at the trailhead that is rotting and an additional section, just south of the trailhead, that is often impassable because it passes over an old beaver dam. She stated that she and Ms. Levergood, along with members of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA), are planning to reroute the north end of the trail. This will allow for this portion to eventually be closed.

Pictures were provided by Ms. Young and reviewed. Discussion ensued relative to the need for permits due to the construction of the bridge.

Ms. Young noted that Tim Mallard and Eric Kriete, members of NEMBA, have been doing maintenance on the trail.

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On a motion made by Mr. Romano, and seconded by Ms. Merrill, the Commission voted unanimously, to allow Grace Levergood and Wini Young, and the New England Mountain Bike Association, to plan a reroute of the north end trailhead of the Parsonage Lot Trail and the section just south of that trailhead due to impassable conditions, and to allow them to eventually close that section.

Elsen – ZBA Variance Application

Ms. Young noted that the variance for Type of Frontage for the Elsen ZBA application, Lower Camp Road, was denied.

Complaint – Violation within Open Space, Map 218; Lot 13-1.

Ms. Weaver explained a complaint was received from a resident in the area of Bennett's Bridge Road relative to non-permitted uses occurring or have occurred within the open space area(s) located in the Deer Ridge Development, Sherburne Hill Road and Bow Lake Road.

A draft letter was presented for review to be sent directly to the Homeowner's Association as well as a copy sent to property owners of the open space area.

On a motion made by Ms. Romano, and seconded by Ms. Mattern, the Commission voted unanimously, to send the letter as read, to the Homeowner's Association, and to copy each property owner of the open space.

Election

Mr. Chase noted that there will be a special primary election, August 1, 2023, to replace a NH State Representative for Rockingham County District 1 (Northwood and Nottingham).

Clean Water Act

It was noted that the Supreme Court has placed new restrictions on the scope of the Clean Water Act. Ms. Young noted that the State and Town can be more restrictive if necessary.

Card of Thanks

A card of thanks was passed around for Sarah Ward and members of the FFA for their work in cutting the Johnson Field Restoration Project; this is an ongoing project.

ADJOURNEMNT

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Mattern, seconded by Ms. Merrill, and unanimously accepted at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fellows-Weaver,
Land Use Administrative Assistant