

**Town of Northwood  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
March 5, 2024  
DRAFT**

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

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

**Town Staff:** Land Use Supervisor Lisa Fellows-Weaver, and Land Use Administrative Assistant Colleen O'Connell.

**MINUTES**

***February 6, 2024***

**Chair Levergood made a motion, seconded by Ms. Young, to approve the minutes of February 6, 2024, as written.**

**Chair Levergood amended the motion, to approve the minutes of February 6, 2024, as amended, with edits that do not alter the content. Ms. Young seconded the amendment. The motion passed; 6/0/1. Ms. Mattern abstained, as she was not at the meeting.**

***February 21, 2024 – Site Walk***

**Chair Levergood made a motion, seconded by Ms. Young, to approve the site walk minutes of February 21, 2024, as written.**

**Chair Levergood amended the motion, to approve the site walk minutes of February 21, 2024, as amended, with edits that do not alter the content. Ms. Young seconded the amendment. The motion passed; 5/0/1. Ms. Mattern and Ms. Romano abstained, as they were not at the meeting.**

**Appointments**

***Library/Library Trustees***

Library Director Donna Bunker and Library Trustees Chair Betty Smith met with the Conservation Commission.

This joint meeting was held to create an opportunity for members to meet and discuss collaborative efforts for future events between the two groups, specifically Northwood Green Up Day.

Ms. Bunker described different type of event the library already does for Earth Day. She agreed to set up a table at the upcoming Earth Day events at Town Hall to include possibly providing a display of books, and maybe coloring packets for children. She noted that the library also hosts events though the week of Earth Day as it is school vacation week.

Additional discussion was held relative to different types of events both entities could do and work together to create.

Ms. Weaver suggested that the Commissions discuss adding funds to their budget for 2025 for opportunities to support future collaborative events and programming opportunities with the Library and Recreation Commission. Ideas were suggested that included Pollinator Pathways, Seek Keeper, and Land Trust programs, such as First Light.

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Staff will continue to work together with the library for programming opportunities.

***Ann Scholz: Standard Dredge & Fill Permit Application: Gulf Road. Map 114; Lots 6 & 8.***

Ms. Scholz gave an overview of the proposal for the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association. She explained that the shoreline of the lake along Gulf Road has erosion issues due to stormwater runoff and undercutting from wave action on the lake. Portions of the existing bank are vegetated with shrubs and trees while other parts have little to no shoreline vegetation. The project proposes restoration impact to the banks with the purpose of restoring natural function to the shoreline. There are no plans to remove any of the exiting vegetation.

A brief discussion was held regarding sediment and erosion control measures. Ms. Scholz explained that coconut fiber rolls will be installed prior to planting. She added that the plan is to complete the work this spring. The Town of Deerfield is also involved.

Overall, members felt this was a great project and a great benefit to the area.

**On a motion made by Ms. Romano, and seconded by Mr. Romano, the Commission voted unanimously, to send a letter of support to NHDES for the Standard Dredge & Fill Permit Application on Gulf Road, Map 114; Lots 6 & 8, as presented.**

***Standard Dredge & Fill Permit Application: LSF, 268 Jenness Pond Rd. Map 203/Lot 19.***

Ms. Weaver noted that as of February 8<sup>th</sup>, NHDES has this application still under technical review. She added that there has not be any additional communication received from NHDES relative to the project. She added that she did follow the Commission's procedures and requested a 40-day hold on the application.

**On a motion made by Mr. Romano, and seconded by Chair Levergood, the Commission voted unanimously, to table this item until April 2, 2024, pending receipt of comments from NHDES.**

***Luke Powell: Dredge & Fill Application, 79 Gulf Rd. Map 115/ Lot 02.***

Luke Powell met with the Commission along with property owner Chuck Weaver.

Members thanked Mr. Powell and Mr. Weaver for the opportunity to have a site walk as it was a benefit to visualize the location of the perched beach, house, and garage.

Additional discussion was held regarding the seasonal dock permit and shoreland permit. NHDES correspondence was reviewed. Mr. Powell explained there is one additional sheet provided in the shoreland permit that has a summary of tree counts and grid. He noted that there will be no stumps removed from the site; trees will be cut.

Overall, members felt this was an adequate proposal, and found the plan impressive as well as the comprehensive stabilization for the slope.

**On a motion made by Chair Levergood, and seconded by Mr. Romano, the Commission voted unanimously, to send a letter of support to NHDES for the**

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**Standard Dredge & Fill Permit Application for 79 Gulf Road, Map 115/Lot 02, as presented.**

**Town Staff Items**

The following items were reviewed and addressed, as follows:

- ***Lantern Light Camps***

Ms. Weaver stated that representatives of the Lantern Light Camp, The Wah-Tut-Ca Reservation, have invited the Commission and staff out to explore the area for future events; March 27 at 10 a.m.

- ***Earth Day***

Ms. Weaver gave an update of the Northwood Green up event and the progress made. The event will take place on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. A flyer was provided to members to distribute. The contractors for the Master Plan will also plan to attend to speak to the developments of the Master Plan chapters and provide additional environmental information relative to the Town and the event.

Members were very receptive to the plan for earth day and appreciative of the work done so far.

- ***Warrant Article***

Ms. Young explained the wording change for the Commission's warrant article that occurred at the deliberative session noting that "passive" was removed, and "preservation" was changed to conservation.

Ms. Weaver stated that the explanation written up by Ms. Young was provided to the Town Administrator for the voter's guide. She noted she was not sure of the status of the guide.

A discussion was held regarding private landowners that are gracious to allow their properties for snow mobile trails. Mr. Chase noted that with the winters and fewer inches of snow there may be a concern with impacts to trails with all-terrain vehicles and other motorized/wheeled vehicles.

- ***Intent to Cut Requests:***

*Lucus Pond Rd/Upper Camp Road - Map 244; Lots 11 & 42 – Reviewed.*

A discussion was held regarding the cutting. Chair Levergood mentioned that there were a few comments on Facebook/Community Chat. She did respond to explaining this was a clear cut as referenced in the Forest Management Plan. She also added that the State of NH Fish & Game has been doing patch cuts/wildlife cuttings.

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

- *Standard Dredge & Fill Permit Application: 7 North Lane. Map 108/Lot 90 (pending NHDES)*

- *Shoreland Permit Application: Kramas Lane. Map 102/ Lot 9. Approved.*

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- *Ralph Blackey - Olde Canterbury Road:*

Ms. Weaver gave an overview of the original item from November 2023. She stated that Mr. Blackey met with the Commission in December and the Commission recommended Mr. Blackey contact NHDES for proper permitting. The Commission requested staff follow-up with the Code Enforcement Officer to see if there is still a violation and to also look to see if an application has been submitted to NHDES.

• ***Master Plan Subcommittee***

Ms. Weaver thanked members for attending the Master Plan focus group yesterday to discuss water and natural resources in Northwood. The input and discussions were appreciated and effective for the development of the chapter.

• ***Docko***

Ms. Weaver stated that the Docko projects are completed, and the plans have been signed. It was suggested that this be an item that the Commission look at annually and if there were to be any issues the Commission can request the Selectboard to have the Town's engineer look at.

• ***Site Walk Procedures***

Ms. Weaver explained that the Planning Board recently adopted site walk procedures. She will be working to adapt the procedures for the Commission to review and adopt.

**Chair Report/Comments**

Nothing to report.

**Correspondence/Other**

- *Bear Paw Invoice– status of the invoice from December 2023*
- *Oath of Office – terms were reviewed.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion to adjourn was made by Chair Levergood, and seconded by Ms. Mattern, and unanimously accepted, at 8:37 p.m.***



Lisa Fellows-Weaver,  
Land Use Supervisor