

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
March 1, 2022**

Chair Levergood called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present:

Chair Levergood, Wini Young, Vice-Chair Susan Romano, Tom Chase, and Priscilla Merrill

Town Staff present:

Susan Austin, Land Use Assistant

MINUTES:

February 23, 2022

Chair Levergood made a motion to accept the minutes of February 23, 2022, as amended. second by Susan Romano. Motion carried 5/0

Kaitlyn Deyo, Bear Paw Regional Greenways

Ms. Deyo stated that she was present to have an open conversation about how Bear Paw can work with Northwood to achieve their conservation goals, to achieve the landowner's conservation goals, and to help get a better sense of that. She understands that the RSA that they suggested is not the right fit, which is fine. She would like to hear from the members about how Bear Paw could help. Ms. Young stated that they haven't done a lot of assistance to private landowners to do conservation easements. They haven't used the conservation funds for that. Land is so expensive now, so the funds might be more useful for easement, helping a private landowner with the process. How does Bear Paw approach a landowner that has a large lot that might be interested? Ms. Deyo stated that they have a few towns that they are helping with that project, so that is something that Bear Paw can help Northwood with. Ms. Young stated that that it's the initial step of getting people interested in conserving their land that is hard. She stated that there is a notion that if conservation funds are used to fund the easement process, then there should be some trails or access to the land, and that's not the case. The great thing about a conservation easement is that it's up to the landowner how the land is used. Maybe getting that message out there is how to do it. Ms. Deyo stated that they use their board and committee members to approach people who they might know to find out if they are interested. They don't want to push anyone, it's more about if they would be interested in hearing more about it. They offer to walk the land with them and generally it's easy to get them talking once they are there. It's important to get those connections out there. Ms. Levergood asked what the financial incentive was for landowners. Ms. Deyo stated that the landowner can donate the land, and then they would be able to get a tax break. Some landowners need to be reimbursed for the development rights; they have a project in Strafford now that they will reimburse the landowner for. Ms. Deyo stated that if they have an interested landowner, to feel free to give them her contact information and she would reach out to them.

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Harding Metals

Ms. Young stated that she researched the well monitoring. She received emails from their manager and DES. There are inspections of the retention ponds and sampling for the water monitoring at certain times. The plans are very detailed, and she really doesn't have anything further to comment to the Planning Board.

Special Exception Checklist:

The members discussed the updates to the checklist and what else could have been added.

Internal business:

Members with upcoming terms ending:

Tom Chase

Susan Romano

Upcoming Meetings:

Next meeting is on April 5, 2022

Motion to adjourn is accepted at 8:26 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Austin, Land Use Assistant