

**Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
April 5, 2022**

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

Present:

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

Town Staff present:

Linda Smith, Land Use Specialist and Susan Austin, Land Use Assistant

Election of Officers:

Mr. Chase made a motion, seconded by Ms. Young, to nominate Grace Levergood as Chair of the Northwood Conservation Commission. Motion carried 6/0.

Chair Levergood made a motion, seconded by Ms. Young, to nominate Susan Romano as Vice Chair of the Northwood Conservation Commission. Motion carried 6/0

Grace Mattern arrived at 7:30

MINUTES:

Chair Levergood made a motion, seconded by Ms. Merrill, to approve the minutes of 2/27/22 as amended. Motion carried 5/0/1; Mr. Hampl abstained

Chair Levergood made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mattern, to approve the minutes of 3/1/22 as amended. Motion carried 5/0/1; Mr. Hampl abstained

Chair Levergood made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mattern, to approve the minutes of 3/23/22 as amended. Motion carried 5/0/2; Mr. Hampl and Ms. Romano abstained.

Discussion about placing conservation easements on town forest lands.

Chair Levergood stated that she and Ms. Young met with Ms. Smith and discussed possibly placing easements on the town forests. Ms. Smith stated that without a conservation easement, these lands could be sold, because the Selectmen have authority to sell town properties. Ms. Young stated that she had identified several properties that have no deed restrictions on it. Discussion ensued on the process to place easements on these lands. Ms. Smith stated that it comes down to a matter of the selectmen agreeing to it. They would also need to consider are surveying and closing costs. It would be something that would have to be put into a warrant article. Ms. Young asked if it was something that Bear Paw could help the town with. Ms. Smith suggested that they invite a Bear-Paw representative to the May 3. Meeting.

Quote to survey the property line on the Yeaton Access Lot

Chair Levergood stated that she had spoken to Pat Bell about a quote for surveying the Yeaton Lot.

Discussion about merge School Lots (10) into back land along Lucas Pond Road

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Ms. Smith stated that the Select Board must agree to the Voluntary Merger. She suggested that members of the Conservation Commission go to a Select Board meeting and speak to them about the conservation easements, town forests and merging the School Lots.

Discussion about requesting Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) to create three separate maps for the town: Conservation overlay districts, Prime wetlands, the conservation lands (needs deed research) Conservation lands-easements and deed restrictions

Ms. Smith stated that she will request the first two maps, since they are included with the Town's yearly dues to SRPC. Because of the complexity of the Conservation Land map, Ms. Romano will continue working on that map.

Open Space Designation

Ms. Young stated that she had provided several documents about this topic, and she would like the members to read them and discuss at the May meeting.

Internal business:

Ms. Smith stated that regarding the quote for surveying the Yeaton Lot, they only have \$2,000 in that line. She stated that she had contacted Bill Wormell, and he said he'd be back in Northwood soon, and depending on the urgency and the scope of the work, he might be able to help them with this.

Ms. Smith stated that she received an email from Ann Scholz regarding a town wide clean up. Ms. Smith stated that it was short notice, but she wanted to let the members know that Ms. Scholz was interested in this. Mr. Chase stated that he still had the bags from last year.

Upcoming Meetings:

May 3, 2022, at 7:15

Motion to adjourn is accepted at 9:17 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Austin, Land Use Assistant